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THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

May 3rd—9th, 1984
Volume 19, Number 18

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TUNA QUOTAS
PAGE 18

LATEST ON STRIPED BASS MANAGEMENT
PAGE 21

FLOUNDERING AROUND THE NORTH FORK
PAGE 26

SOUTH SHORE MACKEREL
PAGE 29

HUDSON RIVER STRIPERS
PAGE 36

HEMPSTEAD LAKE
PAGE 38

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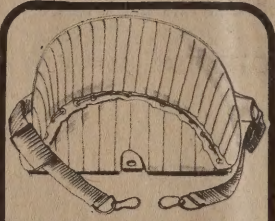

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THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

Volume 19, Number 18 May 3rd, 1984

FEATURES:

INEQUITIES IN TUNA ALLOCATION
by Al Ristori 18

PROPOSALS FALL SHORT ON STRIPER PROTECTION
by Dick Russell 21

SOUTH SIDE WRASSE
by Gerald Hahn 24

FLOUNDERING AROUND THE NORTH FORK
by Martin & Janet Garrell 26

MAY NEWS AND EVENTS
by Fred Guardineer 28

A CALL TO ARMS: THE MACKEREL ARE COMING!
by Louis Mauriello 29

START THEM OFF RIGHT!
by Ron Kometa 32

PORTRAIT OF A BLACKFISH
by Matt Ahern 34

SPRING STRIPERS: HUDSON RIVER STYLE
by Gary Caputi 36

HEMPSTEAD LAKE: A POTENTIAL WINNER
by Carl Buxbaum 38

DEPARTMENTS:

PASS IT ON 4
CHUM LINES 10
NEW PRODUCTS 14
FISHING REPORTS 42
TIDE & SOLUNAR TABLES 59
THE FISHERMAN'S CLASSIFIED 62

ABOUT THE COVER:

Long Island's North Fork provides some real quality flounder fishing for anglers who time their trip right. See the article on page 26 for a complete lowdown on this special brand of flatfishing.

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Introduced early last year, Roller-Trollers have become the most popular outrigger clips in fishing history! They have given trolled lines the famous protection of roller guide action right where lines need it most ... at those critical few inches that are "sawed" back and forth around a thin wire bail as lures skip and jerk through the water. And they have simply outdated the old pinching, chafing action of "clothes-pin" clips.

Now we've extended protective skirts around the roller so that not even flattened Dacron lines will work in under the roller. We've molded new shielding over the release arm, too; added a handy "thumb catch" to the release for easier opening, and refined the connection to the outrigger lines.

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The tension adjustment is positive, yet sensitive over an extemely wide range; and once set, releases at precisely the same pull repeatedly. When a fish strikes, the release is clean and immediate. The tension can be reset easily; even with wet, cold fingers.

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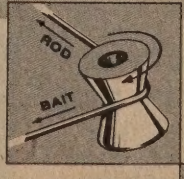

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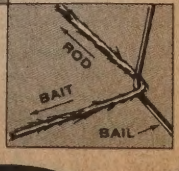

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If you fish like a tournament bass banger, your reel probably gets hot from high speed reeling. And your line gets to looking like a twisted party streamer. Well it won't do that if you put an itty bitty black #1 SAMPO ball bearing swivel like this between your line and your plastic worm. It's 30 lbs. test, and you ain't ever going to catch a 30-lb. bass unless you chum with steroids for the next 100 years. A SAMPO will work. And it keeps Americans working. It's the only ball bearing swivel made in the U.S.A.

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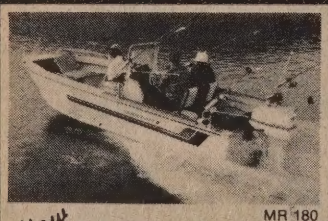

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PASS IT ON...

HOW TO CATCH A $1,000 FISH

What kind of bait do you need to catch those "big $1000" fish? And, how do you go about collecting your bounty once they are in the boat?

Knowing the answers to these questions could prove to be the next, most profitable two minutes reading of your fishing career.

First of all, you need to know it's not so much the lure you're using as it is the line. To collect one of those $1000 checks Berkley and Company is paying out until December 31, 1984, you have to be spooled with their new Trilene lines. And, when you send in your world record application you have to indicate you used Trilene and you must enclose a 50 foot sample of the last length used to catch that world record.

Few anglers recognize that IGFA runs five wet break strength tests and the average determines the line class. If the angler states he used Trilene and a new record appears to have been set, a portion of his line sample is forwarded by the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) to Berkley's labs for verification. They run a chemical "fingerprint" to confirm it is Trilene. Not all nylon lines are the same. Because the new Trilene lines use a unique nylon alloy chemistry, they yield their own distinctive fingerprint.

If there are any doubts about the veracity of the world record application both IGFA and Berkley reserve the right to conduct further field investigation which can include a polygraph test.

Catching the right fish on the right line is the first and biggest step. To collect your $1000 you next must receive notice from IGFA that your application has passed and you have set a new world record; and your name must be published in their bi-monthly world record update. Once your name appears that's you cue to get on the phone to Berkley and claim your reward. If you prefer, you can formally announce your good fortune by writing to them. Send your announcement to: Berkley and Company, Attention: Duane Kolar, Trilene World Records, Spirit Lake, IA 51360.

Many anglers travelling throughout the world carry fishing tackle with them. In a recent announcement, IGFA notified anglers throughout the world that they are now accepting entries for all other species of game fish. No world records will be awarded in 1984 on these new species currently not listed in the IGFA 1983 World Record Game Fishes Annual.

You should also be aware that currently none of these new, unlisted species will qualify for Berkley's current 1983-84 $1000 bounty program. But that could change.

If you happen to catch one of those giant Nile perch on your world travels, that should not stop you from entering your possible world record catch. It will not put an extra thou' in your pocket under Berkley's current program, but you may still have the prestige of being the first when the first world records appear.

Contrary to what many fishermen believe, the formula for catching world record fish is: 25% Luck + 25% Fishing Skill + 50% Planning. For more information on world record rules, application forms, and existing freshwater and saltwater records anglers are encouraged to send their request and $1 to: IGFA, 3000 E. Las Olas Boulevard, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316.

RAY HENDRICKSON WINS 1984 CAPT. FRED E. LAWTON AWARD

Ray Hendrickson, aircraft engineer and free lance boating writer from Hampton Bays, New York, has won the eighth annual Captain Fred E. Lawton Boating Safety Award.

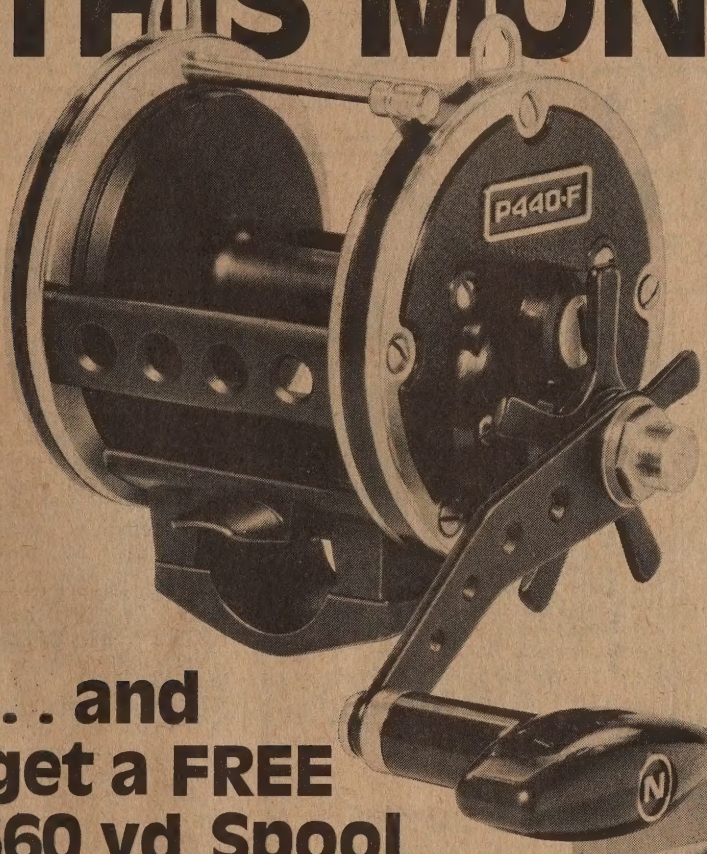
The award, which is sponsored by Raytheon Company, was presented to Mr. Hendrickson by D. Brainerd Holmes, President of the diversified electronics company. Mr. Hendrickson received a pair of Waterford crystal captain's decanters, a commemorative certificate and a $500 honorarium.

A veteran boatman, licensed captain and fisherman, Mr. Hendrickson is a regular contributor to **Small Boat Journal, Asbury Park Press, The Fisherman** and **Salt Water Sportsman.** He also has written for **National Fisherman, Nautical Quarterly, Long Island Sportsman, Yankee** and **Popular Mechanics.**

During the past year his articles and columns explored a broad range of instructional boating safety issues including collision avoidance, boating courtesy, the dangers of hypothermia, distress communications, and boat handling through adverse weather conditions.

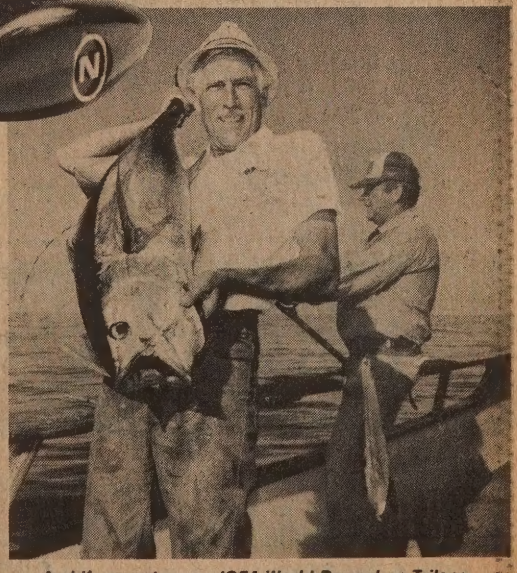
An honorable mention certificate was awarded to runner-up, T. Earl Heffner, staff writer for the **Brunswick Beacon,** Shallotte, N.C. Before

BUY A NEWELL THIS MONTH

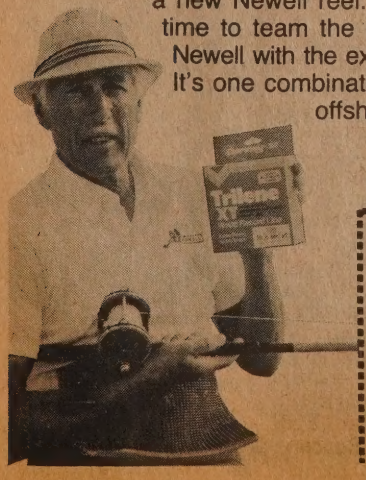


. . . and get a FREE 660 yd. Spool of Trilene®!

If you compare lightweight design, component features, strength, precision and performance you'll find dozens of reasons to fish a Newell reel. During May 1984, Carl Newell will add one more reason to the list with his offer of a *FREE* 660 yd. spool of Berkley Trilene XT® World Record Line to everyone who buys a new Newell reel. There's never been a better time to team the unmatched performance of a Newell with the extra strength of Berkley Trilene. It's one combination that's mighty hard to beat offshore!



And if you set a new IGFA World Record on Trilene, Berkley will send you $1000.00*!



How to get your *FREE* 660 yd. Spool of Trilene XT World Record Line.

*Fly fishing records excluded. Complete details on the box.

Just purchase any new Newell reel, fill in the warranty registration card and send it along with the dated cash register receipt (circle purchase price) and this completed coupon to: **Trilene Offer, c/o Carl W. Newell Mfg., 940 Allen Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201.**

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Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Circle the Lb. Class You Prefer 20 _____ 30 _____ 50 _____

Only one coupon is payable per Newell reel purchased May 1 thru 30, 1984 and only one will be honored per family, group, organization or address. Allow 6 to 8 weeks for receipt of your line. Offer void where taxed, restricted or prohibited. Good in U.S.A. only. Coupons must be postmarked by June 15, 1984.

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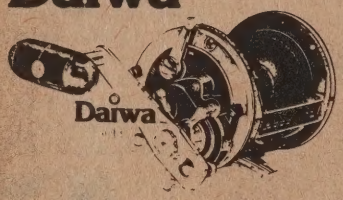

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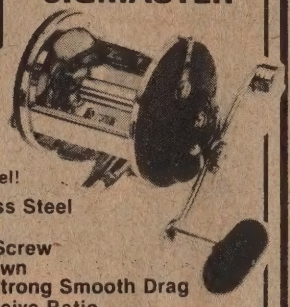

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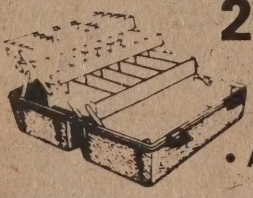

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joining the Beacon, Mr. Heffner was a boating writer and columnist for the **Charlotte Observer** for more than 30 years.

Mr. Heffner is a past recipient of the Lawton Award and has received honorable mention three times.

The award is named for the late captain Lawton: master mariner, competitive sailor and patient teacher of nautical skills and safety at sea. Captain Lawton had been a life-long professional seaman. He served for many years as director of marine safety with Raytheon Company.

The winners were selected by a panel of 30 judges from publications, broadcasting, and boating safety organizations.

Entries describing contributions during the current year will close on December 31, 1984.

TECHSONIC DIVISIONS SPONSOR TOURNAMENT FOR MDA

Humminbird and Mann's Bait Company are sponsors of the Fisherman's AmBASSadors Association tournament. All proceeds from this tournament go toward the fight against muscular dystrophy and the two divsions of Techsonic Industries are proud to help find a cure for this crippling disease.

MAY 1 THRU 14 IS NATIONAL BERKLEY DOUBLE WEEK

Take everything you've ever heard about Berkley's tremendous promotions. Take all of the excitement, all of the outstanding products, all of the tremendous rebates and DOUBLE IT! Because Berkley is doubling the rebates, doubling the celebration to two full weeks and nearly doubling up on the number of featured products to include many of the industry's leading sellers! Now you've got it—May 1 thru 14, 1984 is National Berkley Double Week, the biggest, brightest, most spectacular double promotion in Berkley history!

Just look at these rebates. Lightning Rod carries a $10 rebate coupon when it leaves the factory. But, during Berkley Double Week that same coupon is worth $20. You've seen the $2 rebate coupon on Cherrywood rods, Berkley will pay $4 May 1 thru 14. The $1 money back offer on Trilene Filler Spools, redeem it for two bucks the first two weeks of May. And the double list goes on with these unbelievable rebates—One Hundred Series graphite rods ($8), Stinger graphites ($8), Grayfite Rods ($6), Cherrywood Rods ($4), Buccaneer Fresh Water Rods ($2), any size spool of Berkley Dacron ($4), 300' and 1000' spools of Berkley Wire ($4), Official A.W.S.A. Tournament ski tow rope ($10), Cypress Gardens ski rope ($6), Fishin' Partner tackle box ($4), plus special promotional emphasis on Outdoorsman Lites, Rod Racks and Scissors. There's never been a promotion like it before and it may be years before we'll see anything like it again.

National Berkley Double Week—

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New two-fisted excitement. New one-handed control.

Our new TNT Spinning Reel Series makes spin fishing faster, easier, more accurate and more exciting than ever before. Because now you can control your line, open the bail and cast with just one hand.

Available in three sizes, this superbly engineered rear drag reel is loaded with the high-tech features today's angler demands. State-of-the-art features like these:

• Touch'NTrip™ casting system with self-centering bail. • Graphite pop-off spool. • New exclusive R-Tec™ drag material. • Two oil-less bearings and one ball bearing. • Left/right convertible handle.

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MAKO NEW CUDDY CABIN 228

The new 228 Deep Vee Cuddy Cabin is the answer to the fisherman's need for a big open cockpit boat with a large cuddy cabin. In the 228 you'll get stern room to fish and cabin room for storage and those overnight trips. 122 gallons of fuel, large live well, two deep and long fish boxes, port and starboard battery compartments, drop down transom door, recessed rod racks. All in a cockpit area of over 6 ft. by 12 ft. There is plenty of room for a big fighting chair or rocket launcher. Forward are two 6.6 ft. bunks with headroom of 5'9". The new bottom design is deep vee; she is very soft and extremely dry. We didn't believe we could build a boat drier than the 21, but we did! Wide walk around deck area for safety when anchoring or washing down. Non-skid all over. Rated to 250 HP, BIA approved. Self-bailing and foam flotation. New to the Mako line and very pleasing to the eye. The 228 is just one more reason why Mako is the boat all others are compared with. At Mako we care about the family that fishes together.

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- MARINE PLYWOOD (4' x 8' to 4' x 20')
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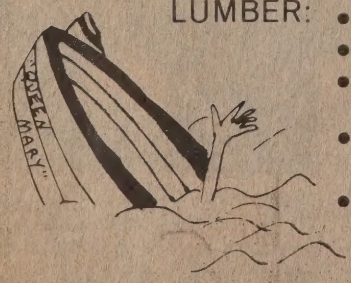

WOOD-PLY LUMBER Corp.
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coming to a store near you May 1 thru 14, 1984! Be on the lookout for Berkley Double Week ads, complete with rebate coupons in the May issues of leading outdoor magazines. Berkley and Company, Inc., Trilene Drive, Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360.

BOATING SKILLS AND SEAMANSHIP

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 11-7 will sponsor an eight-week safe boating course starting May 14, 1984. The class will meet Monday evenings from 7:30 pm to 10:30 PM at Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn.

The course will be given by experienced USCG Auxiliary instructors using the highly acclaimed Auxiliary text book and related instructional material. Subjects include: safe boat handling, aids to navigation, marlinspike, sailing, weather, piloting, legal requirements, rules of the road, radio communications, first aid and much more.

The lessons are designed for beginning and intermediate levels. Family participationg is encouraged. The course is offered free, with a nominal fee for text and materials.

Upon successful completion of the course, an official certificate will be issued.

A free New York State Certified young boaters course will be given at the same time, for youngsters from ages 10 to 15 (only). Successful completion of this course will give the boy or girl a NY State Certification, which is mandatory for operating a powerboat.

Pre-registration is a must. For more information, please contact Andrew Russo, Public Education Officer, (212) 232-3511 between 6PM & 8PM. Classes fill quickly. Don't be left out.

MATCH YOUR TACKLE TO YOUR FISH

Fishermen are more sophisticated today than they were 10 years ago, and the demand for sophisticated equipment has grown likewise.

Tackle outlets now offer an array of specialized rods and reels. For the experienced angler, that's wonderful. But for the novice, it can be mind-boggling. There are several things to consider before buying a rod and reel. To ensure full enjoyment, the fisherman must match his tackle to the type of fishing he will be doing. And then there's the matter of pride. Good fishermen—whether they be panfish, bass or salmon fishermen—are often evaluated by their peers at the dock by the kind of equipment they carry. A fisherman should at least **look** like he knows what he's doing.

One of the best ways to select an outfit is to talk to experienced fishermen. They can recommend what works best for them. But even that can become confusing because of the variety of opinions.

When buying, it is best to stay with reputable manufacturers to ensure long-lasting enjoyment. Most com-

panies offer a wide range of prices. Many have matched combinations of rods and reels that work well for even the experienced angler.

The fishing experts at Garcia have provided the following tips to help a fisherman narrow his selection to an outfit that best suits his needs.

Rods. Weight and sensitivity—these are top priorities among all anglers. The kind of fishing will determine the strength of the rod. For example, panfish fishermen like a light-action rod, which enables them to cast light jigs or live bait easily. However, a bass anglers who likes to flip prefers a heavy-duty rod for muscling big fish from heavy cover on short line. Neither rod is interchangeable, but sensitivity is important to both fishermen.

Graphite, or a graphite composite, provides excellent sensitivity and strength. If cost is a consideration, fiberglass rods get the nod.

No matter from what materials a rod is made, taper controls the action. Uniform taper from butt to tip is a good compromise. Fast-taper rods are preferred for light lures.

The fisherman should consider the kind of lures or bait he'll be using. Naturally heavy lures, such as anything weighing more than 3/8 ounces, require more rod backbone. The lighter bait requires lighter action for casting performance. By the same token, a heavy jig is awkward on a light rod.

Garcia experts recommend that fishermen heed the specifications printed on the side of the rod. These indicate the rod action, length and lure sizes that offer best performance.

Reels. For conventional fishing, there are three types of reels—spincasting, spinning and baitcasting. Beginners usually prefer spincasting, although some veterans would use nothing else. Each fisherman deveops his own preference.

Spinning reels require a little more practice than do spincasting reels, but a well-balanced outfit makes pinpoint casting easily achievable. Spinning reels are practical for most types of fishing.

If one plans to do a lot of casting, however, the baitcasting reels are ideal. With the invention of magnetic braking systems, baitcasting reels are now more efficient. The era of snarls and backlashes is gone.

Most pro bass fishermen opt for baitcasting reels because of their versatility and accuracy. Many trollers prefer baitcasting reels because of line capacity.

Line requirements can be a factor in reel selection. If six to 10 pound test line will fulfill a fisherman's needs, then a reel designed to adequately handle that line would be best. Line specifications accompany most reels. Remember, the lighter the line, the more easily it will handle miniature baits and lures.

Reels come in various sizes, too, from ultralight to large trolling reels. Ultralight reels are designed for lightweight lures but are limited in line capacity. Again, reel specifications indicate line capacities.

A fisherman should also consider versatility. If he plans to fish for a variety of species under different conditions, he should consider a reel with easy spool-changing capabilities. With a spincasting reel, changing spools is not practical. However, it's quite simple with most spinning reels—you just pull one off and pop the new one on. For baitcasting, the Ambassadeur Ultra Mag XL Series reels are the only one available with quick spool-changing capabilities. You simply twist off the side-plate, remove the present spool and drop in the replacement—all in less than eight seconds.

When putting together a rod and reel combination, balance becomes an important factor. The equipment should feel comfortable to the angler. Many manufacturers recommend rod and reel matchups in their catalogs. A beginner would be wise to follow these recommendations. A large, cumbersome reel on a light-action rod, for example, would hamper a person's fishing.

Buying an outfit to match one's needs is important. A fisherman who isn't comfortable with his equipment may lose "the big one" of a lifetime, and properly matched equipment will help him catch more fish.

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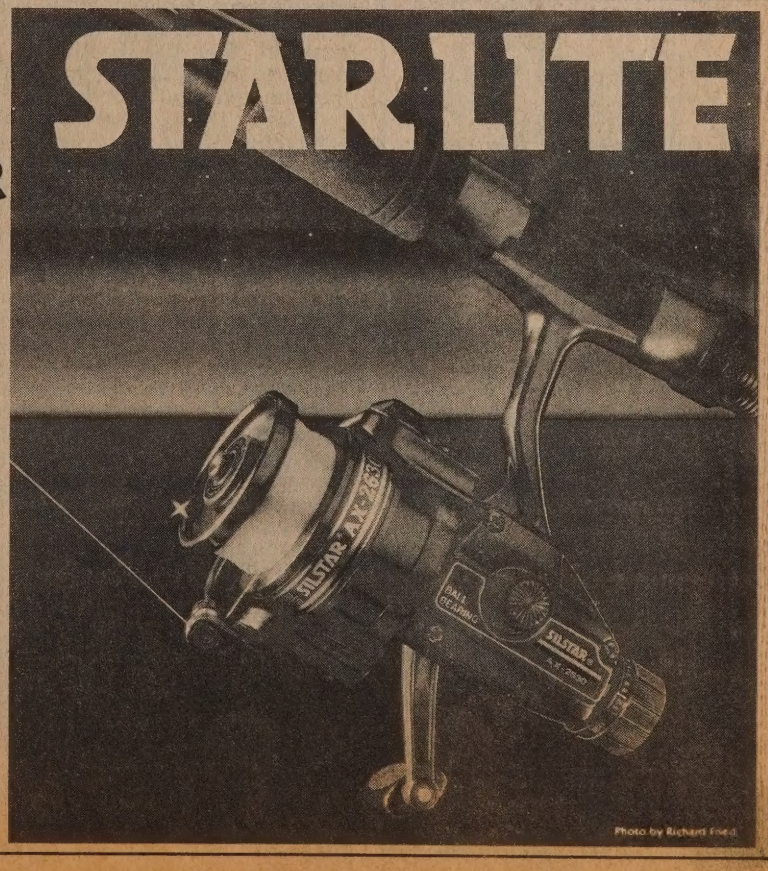

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CONCERN OVER PCB's EVEN MORE ACCUTE

Dr. Mark Novitch
Acting Commissioner
U.S. Food & Drug Adm.
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Commissioner Novitch:

It is with great concern that we are writing to you regarding the current "temporary" safe tolerance level of 5.0 parts per million for PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) in fish and shellfish for human consumption. These dangerous toxins cause tumors, neurological dysfunction, liver damage, still-births, and birth defects in animals, and are listed as suspected human carcinogens by the International Agency for Research on Cancer.

It should also be noted that Canada adopted a level of 2.0 parts per million as early as November, 1975. Ironically, that country has been shipping to the United States, PCB-contaminated fish that is unacceptable by Canada's own standards.

On April 1, 1977 the Food and Drug Administration announced in the Federal Register its intention to lower the tolerance levels for PCBs in dairy products, fowl, eggs, and fish and shellfish. This step was taken as a result of new information indicating that the chemical was more toxic to humans than was originally estimated. It was proposed that the level for fish and shellfish be reduced from 5.0 parts per million to **2.0 ppm.**

That was almost seven years ago!

Since that time, arguments by objecting parties regarding the proposed regulation were submitted to your agency and reviewed. On October 5, 1979, the regulation pertaining to fish and shellfish was stayed, pending a determination of whether a hearing should be held on the question of your agency's estimate of the anticipated food loss that would result from the reduced tolerance level. In the meantime, the lower tolerance levels for PCBs in dairy products, fowl, and eggs went into effect.

As you know, the disagreement between your agency and the objecting parties regarding the amount of food loss that would result, eventually went before an administrative law judge. His initial decision was handed down on February 8, 1982.

That last action should have cleared the way for a final decision by the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration—but it did not! As of this date, February 23, 1984, a decision has yet to be reached by your agency on whether the new tolerance level for fish and shellfish should be reduced to **2.0 ppm.**

Seven years of indecision has subjected a hapless fish-eating public to average PCB levels in fish of up to 5.0 parts per million, while, according to another FDA regulation, **animals** *are protected by an established level of 0.2 parts per million in finished animal feed!*

What is going on?

Is this yet another case of Federal agencies protecting big business at any cost, and "letting the public be damned?" *Robert J. Rance, Executive Vice President, S.O.S.*

RE: WHO KEEPS THE FISH?

Dear Sirs:

Captain Gene Kelly's comments in a recent issue of The Fisherman are the remarks of an apparently greedy captain. I quote, "If a giant tuna is caught, the party got their enjoyment; the crew should get the money." Has Captain Kelly forgotten that the crew already received approximately $600 for the day's trip? including no doubt, a pretty good tip!

When you fish for giant tuna in the Canadian provinces, the crew keeps the fish, but the day's trip costs only about $140.

Captain Mike Albronda of the charter boat "Montauk" says it best: "You catch it, you keep it."

Very truly yours, *Frank Retacco.*

Dear Frank,

Policies concerning the distribution of the day's catch vary considerably among charter boat captains. Some anglers care only about catching fish and enjoying the day. Others are looking to stock the freezer, while still others are looking to sell the day's catch to offset the sizeable cost of the charter. Until skippers establish a uniform policy, anglers should make it a point to come to an agreement with the captain before any money changes hands. Fish only with someone whose policy you can live with.

An agreement that would seem fair to all concerned might be: If any giants are landed during the course of a charter, how about refunding the cost of the charter? Providing, of course, that the fish is sold in good condition and the price paid for the fish exceeds the cost of the charter. Anything over the price of the charter is frosting on the cake for the skipper and the charter doesn't feel "cheated" out of their catch because the day will have cost them nothing.

Unfortunately, as long as high prices continue to be paid for tuna, differences of opinion are sure to arise. Skippers whose main concern is selling fish probably shouldn't be booking charters in the first place. Most angler have little experience in this form of fishing and the odds of "dropping" a giant increase considerably as opposed to having a well-trained, experienced crew in the cockpit.

Releasing the fish is another alternative, one which sadly enough, has little chance of gaining popularity.

Few captains and fishermen will, or can afford, to let go one to two thousand dollars worth of fish flesh. Fred Golofaro.

MORE INFORMATION ON SURF FISHING

I usually do most of my fishing on the North Shore in Little Neck Bay. Last November, I took a ride over to West End 2 at Jones Beach. I saw approximately ten people surf fishing. Most were using bunker chunks as bait. I watched for half an hour and saw five or six bluefish in the high teens caught. This looked very exciting.

On the North Shore in Little Neck Bay I have only caught small bluefish of 2 or 3 pounds. Surf fishing from the ocean looks like a lot of fun and bigger fish.

I would like to know if any permits are needed to fish at Jones Beach? Do you need a vehicle permit? Do I need a license to fish on the beach, if I get a ride over to the beach and back? What hours during the spring, summer and fall is fishing allowed, in day or night hours? If I can fish during the day, do I have to pay to park? Which parking areas can you fish?

I would also like you to recommend a good surf pole and spinning reel. I have fished before; I am six feet tall and weigh 185 pounds. I would like a rod and spinning reel that can be used for casting jigs or bait. What size diamond jig (weight) would you use? Do you recommend it have a single or treble hook? What are the names of other good lures to use? When in season I would like to fish for blues, stripers, and weakfish. Would it be possible to snag bunker from the beach or any other type of bait? Would I be allowed to dig for sandworms along the beach? Are there any good areas that you could recommend?

Is the incoming or outgoing tide better? Any and all information about fishing the Jones Beach area will be greatly appreciated. Could you also recommend a book about surf fishing in the Jones Beach area? *John J. Rynne, III.*

Dear John,

We receive hundreds of letters like yours every year. Those letters were one of the reasons why we decided to put many of the answers together in one place. Our new book, Surf Fishing with the Experts, *is a composite of how-to, where-to, when-to, and why-to information. It includes info about permits, clubs, species, techniques, equipment, etc. See the ad in this week's issue for more details on how to order. We hope you try the book, but until you get it, here's a few answers to your inquiry.*

A permit is needed to fish from specific state parks after dark, but not during the day. The permit can be secured at any park headquarters during normal business hours. You'll need your car registration and $5. Four-wheel drive vehicles are not permitted onto Jones Beach. However,

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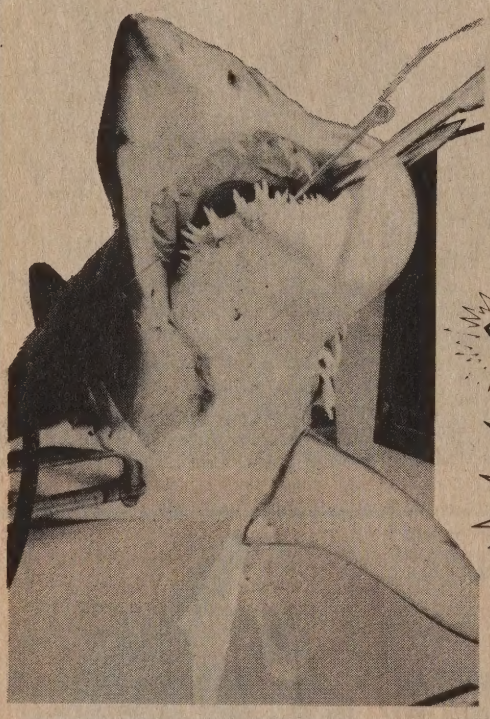

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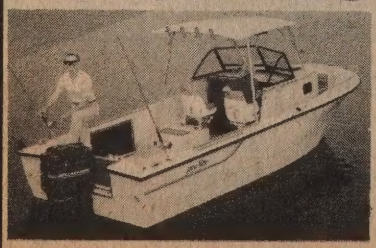

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they are allowed on portions of other beaches such as Gilgo, Democrat Point, Montauk and Hither Hills. A permit is required and costs $25. For suggestions on a rod and reel, we'll steer you to three places. First, the above surf book; two, articles in LIF, and three, your local tackle store. Diamond jigs are used in surf fishing, but I'm not sure you meant it that way. Small ones, such as the AVA 007 are good for weaks and small blues, while in the fall, surf nuts have been using larger models for distance to catch big blues. Some folks add a red or green tube. Yes, it sure is possible to snag bunker from the beach: and mullet, too. Many of us do it every year to get the freshest bait. As far as digging worms is concerned you'll need to inquire with officials of the town of municipality where you plan to dig. There are local ordinances that differ and some places require a permit to dig even for non-commercial purposes. Dr. W.A. Muller.

YEA BABYLON; BOO BROOKHAVEN!

Editor
Newsday
Long Island, N.Y. 11747
Dear Sir:

This past winter the Towns of Babylon and Brookhaven both addressed the use of beach buggies along their beaches. The manner in which each town resolved the problem of the small percentage of unruly and destructive ORV operators is enlightening. Each town held a public hearing on the matter in which beachfront property owners and mobile sport fishermen expressed their views.

The property owners in both towns stated their complaint was not with fishermen but with those who view the shore as an obstacle course on which to test their vehicles. Whereas these two factions in Brookhaven pursued directly opposing viewpoints, similar parties in Babylon met beforehand to direct their efforts at the real problem—the ORV operators who hold no regard for the environment or the rights of others.

Supervisor Acampora and the Brookhaven Town Board chose to close the beaches despite the fact that most speakers at the Town Meeting requested better enforcement of the existing code. An area with severely limited access due to the steep cliffs common on the north shore. This closure, coupled with the parking ban on local streets, effectively eliminates fishermen from almost the entire north shore, from Shoreham to West Meadow Beach. Supervisor Noto and the Babylon Town Board, on the other hand, opted to heed the recommendations of a union of waterfront property owners, surf fishermen with the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation and initiated a policy of more stringent code enforcement plus mandatory awareness program. This program, which is a first in the New York

area below the level of the Federal Government, would require every ORV operator to attend a session instructing them in proper beach travel.

With a shoreline immeasurably more difficult to control, the Ocean Parkway and passable dunes front the entire area, Babylon Town has seen fit to permit its residents the privilege of enjoying the beaches.

It has been stated that laws are for the law-abiding. I am curious as to where the waterfront homeowner of Brookhaven will turn when the only stabilizing influence on the beaches has been removed, with no one on the beaches but the very persons they sought to ban. Brookhaven had admitted that they are incapable of policing this area. That is a cop-out and a matter which will have to be addressed in the future when these same homeowners are once again demanding protection.

The loss of the entire north shore of Brookhaven to surf fishing is a serious blow to the already limited opportunities of beach bound anglers. I am amazed that neither of your outdoor columnists saw fit to mention this dilemma, one of them at least lives in Brookhaven. It is past time for Newsday to add a voice which will be responsive to the true sportsmen of Long Island. Sincerely, *John J. Fritz, Beach Access Chairman, New York Sport Fishing Federation.*

RESPONSE TO BLUEFISH PLAN COMMENTS

Dear Dr. Muller:

Thank you for your letter expressing your interest in the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Bluefish Fishery Management Plan.

I appreciate your comments; they will be considered in the official review and become part of the record.

Sincerely yours, *William G. Gordon, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries.*

HOW ABOUT A GEORGES BANK ARTICLE?

As a long time subscriber to your magazine I have a request which, while being informative to me, would also be interesting to many others. I would like to see an article on Georges Bank as I am planning a trip in the near future. An article on the tackle and methods used here would be helpful.

I am sure one of your capable writers can expound on the aforementioned and come up with an informative and interesting article.

It takes time and money to learn and your articles have been useful in the past.

Yours in sport, *Henry Dalland.*

Dear Henry,

Look for a Georges Bank article in an upcoming issue of The Fisherman. I've roped Long Island's roving, female fishing reporter, Lorry Mangan, into doing just such a piece. In fact, she is freshly returned from the most recent Georges Bank trip made by the Viking Starship. Fred Golofaro.

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The Ultra Mag XL Plus, Ultra Mag XL I and Ultra Max XL II are hand-assembled in Sweden. All feature the unique Magtrax three-way adjustable magnetic braking system, which offers the angler the widest range of magnetic settings available. The Ultra Mag XL Plus also features the Fast Cast ThumBar with an exclusive flipping feature. This allows an angler to instantly engage the spool in direct drive by releasing the ThumBar; the hook can be set as soon as the fish strikes.

The Ultra Mag XL Plus and Ultra Mag XL I each weigh 9 ounces, and their narrow spools allow for 120 yards of 14 pound test line. The 9.5 ounce Ultra Mag XL II has a standard spool that holds 190 yards of 14 pound test line. All of the reels feature a fast 4.7-to-1 gear ratio.

For more information, write ABU-Garcia Inc., 21 Law Drive, Fairfield, NJ 07006.

MARATHON INTRODUCES OZONE PROTECTOR STORAGE CHEST

A new ozone protector storage chest lets customers practice what Marathon preaches about proper storage of waders and hippers.

That is because the new airtight storage box makes it easy for customers to store their waders away from the damaging effects of ozone, explains Ted Rudolph, vice president.

"Ozone cracking occurs only when ozone attacks tensions or folds in rubber," he says. "If rubber is stored away from ozone, the problem can be eliminated. Our airtight storage chest does just that."

The new box was developed as part of the Marathon Method of wader storage, a four-step approach that effectively increases the durability of rubber materials.

"We developed the step-by-step instructions after studying old waders that showed no signs of ozone cracking," explains Rudolph. "We found that they had one thing in common—all were stored in airtight containers.

"When we conducted our own tests, comparing open air storage with airtight storage, we saw the same results. That is why we stopped recommending boot hangers for storage and developed our own method."

Other features of the new package include:

- Roomy size—extra inches make it easy to fold and store waders and hippers.
- Water repellant coating—special coating inside and out gives this sturdy box extra durability.
- Attractive design—burnished wood motif makes this a perfect gift box, ideal for any occasion.

The ozone protector storage chest is **free** with all purchases of Marathon waders and hippers. Complimentary copies of Marathon's new pamphlet on wader storage also included with package.

SHIMANO'S MAGNUMLITES

Tear a rod and reel advertisement out of any fishing magazine and chances are you'll find the term "lightweight" used several times. Weight has become an extremely important factor in the fishing tackle industry. Reducing the weight of fishing tackle while increasing the strength and improving quality has become the standard at Shimano. That's why you'll see space-age titanium in some critical reel components and lightweight graphite used extensively through Shimano's 1984 product line. But nowhere is Shimano's ability to design tackle that is light, strong and precise more evident than in the exciting new MAGNUMLITE series—nobody ever built fishing tackle like this before!

Bantam Magnumlite 2000 GT Casting Reel. The most advanced product in the industry. The 2000 FT boasts every feature a bass fisherman could wish for, plus some he's never even dreamed about. Titanium and graphite construction account for the Bantam Magnumlite's super strength and incredible lightness. A true feather-weight at only 6.5 ounces, the 2000 GT is the lightest, strongest, full featured Quickfire casting reel ever!

Magnumlite Quickfire GRX Spinning Reel Series. Years ahead of its t time. A lightweight graphite design coupled with the QuickFire bail trigger and a scientifically calibrated rear drag have created the spinning reel of the future. GRX Magnumlite QuickFires are available in three models that take the fisherman from ultra-light trout through light tackle salt water.

Magnumlite Graphite ML Rod Series. Designed to complement the Magnumlite reels. Magnumlite graphite rods round out the series and, are unquestionably the best handling and most cosmetically appealing sticks to be introduced in years. Available in 18 models, each with a long list of important features serious fishermen demand in a quality rod.

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Any angler releasing a fish meeting the minimum required weight for the Angling Award will receive a certificate suitable for framing. Fish may be weighed on any portable scale, although estimated weights are acceptable for the Release Award. One certificate per species, per angler please.

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Bluefish	15
Weakfish	10
Pollock	20
Tuna	200
Mako Shark	200
White Marlin	60
Swordfish	100
Sea Bass	4
Brown Trout	3
Brook Trout	2
Rainbow Trout	2
Largemouth Bass	4

*Eligible for Release Award Only

Contest runs from April 1 through November 30. Entries received after December 10 will be disqualified. An incomplete entry blank may result in disqualification of your catch. Send to:

The Fisherman, P.O. Box 1994, Bridge Street, Sag Harbor, New York 11963.

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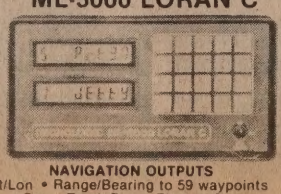

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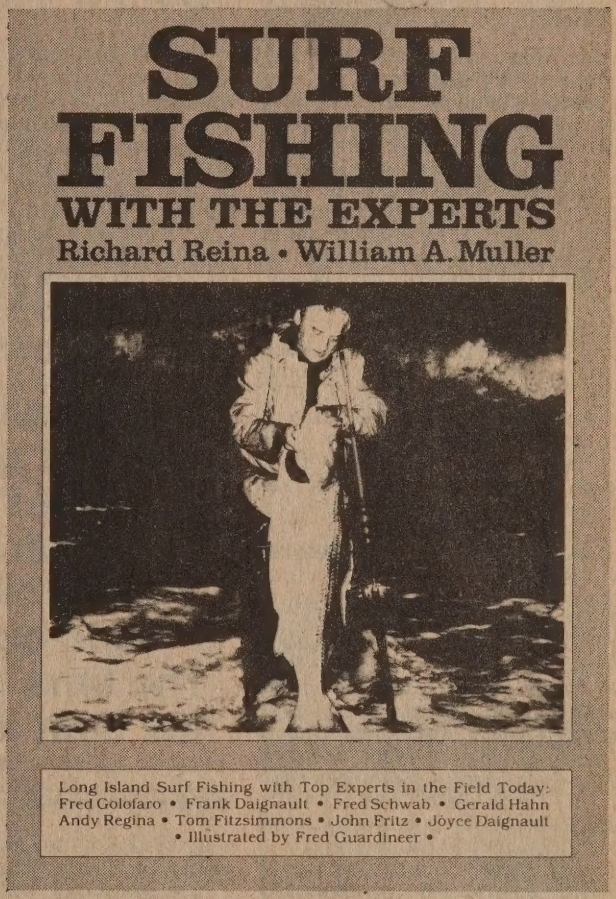
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INEQUITIES IN TUNA ALLOCATION

by Al Ristori

As this was being written, the proposed tuna regulations for the 1984 season still hadn't been formally issued. However, they have been the subject of considerable discussion during the winter—and the word I received from Washington is that nothing significant had been changed. Basically the regulations are similar to those prevailing last year, except for two provisions intended to prevent the recurrence of last September's hectic backing and filling.

Despite advice from many of those familiar with the fishery, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Northeast Office didn't set aside a quota for the late season New York Bight fishery. and the early August increase to two giants per boat per day resulted in the general category quota being quickly eaten up. The result was a moratorium in September when the fishing was red hot south of Montauk, and a short reopening of the season—only to have it closed in all eastern areas just as the Massachusetts Bay fishery broke wide open. The limited New York Bight giant tuna season was able to proceed only by means of the director's reserve and by "stealing" some tonnage from the school tuna category. Even then, the New York Bight season was cut short after Columbus Day in order not to go even further beyond the quota.

In order to overcome this obviously poor situation, NMFS has proposed both a 50-ton reserve of giants for the western area and a retention of the one fish daily limit through at least Labor Day. New Jersey anglers, who were shut out two years ago and severely limited last fall, are finally up in arms and pushing hard for more consideration. There's no question that they've been getting the short end of the stick, but the fact of the matter is that everyone fishing in the general category has been short-changed!

Before proceeding further, let me assure you that I'm wholeheartedly in favor of the severely limited quotas that have resulted from the international agreement worked out with Japan and Canada through the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). Though our fishery has been restricted, the Japanese have had to virtually cease their directed fishery for bluefin tuna in U.S. waters. During the past decade, they were taking up to 10,000 pre-spawning giant tuna from the Gulf of Mexico each winter—a factor that was contributing to a long-term decline in the bluefin population. As a result of the agreement, they no longer fish in the Gulf at all. Furthermore, their winter fishery in the Atlantic for mediums is now conducted almost entirely in Canadian waters. The Canadians fish only for the giants and they weren't able to fill their quota last year due to the collapse of the October-November Canso Causeway fishery.

A small but powerful minority continues to get an unfair share of the bluefin tuna quota. The time to rock the boat is now!

The significant reduction in pressure on the bluefin tuna has a beneficial result which was obvious for all to see last fall in the form of "old-fashioned" school tuna fishing south of Montauk and east of the north Jersey coast. Given half a chance there's every likelihood that the bluefin will continue to come back, though the improvement in the situation hasn't gone unnoticed by those who would like to return to the era of unbridled exploitation. Not only are the Japanese pushing for much higher quotas, but the buyer of American purse seine giants has also come up with West Coast scientists who produce population estimates that are similar to the generous figures submitted by Japan.

Our government scientists continue to believe that the bluefin tuna population is relatively depressed and needs lots of help. However, they were barely able to retain the present low quota at the ICCAT session last November—and there's going to be intense pressure to raise the catch when meetings are held this fall. In the short term, that would be good for anglers as we'd be allowed to catch more tuna. In the long run, I'm afraid that the result of sharply increased tuna fishing can only be a return to the era of scarcity—when the quotas assigned in the Mid-Atlantic didn't make any difference as there just weren't many tuna to be caught in any case!

The U.S. quota at the present time is quite sufficient to take care of almost all participants. The problem is that a privileged few are being given an inordinate share of the resource. Last year more than 10,000 rod and reel license holders took over 1100 giant tuna—but five purse seiners were allowed to kill over 1700! The rod and reelers were restricted to one fish per day and had to compete in the general category with handliners and harpooners. When the quotas were exhausted, they had to quit, even if they personally hadn't caught any up to that point. On the other hand, the purse seiners could take their quotas at any time and in any quantity that suited them. I understand that they were even able to combine boat quotas and take it all from one vessel if they cared to.

If that little racket sounds like a good deal, don't rush out and buy a purse seiner so you can get in on it yourself. This is a nice, cozy little government-sponsored monopoly for just five boats, some of which are involved in cross ownerships. A big share of the total quota has been set aside for these boats because NMFS feels that it would be difficult to control an open purse seine fishery on the limited bluefin resource. About 20 other boats have applied to get in on this financial bonanza, but NMFS has so far been able to hold the entire quota for the five insiders. This "license to steal" is such a good deal that the "White Dove" people in Cape May built a new 122 foot tuna seiner in North Carolina this winter.

The very concept of limited entry is a matter of considerable debate in fisheries circles, and is generally opposed by commercial interests. The State of Alaska has instituted such a system in its salmon fisheries, but a proposal by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to institute limited entry in the halibut fishery was recently shot down. Without

getting into the merits and demerits of limited entry, the fact of the matter is that the various schemes noted, and others proposed, all involve great numbers of participants. The limited entry concept in the tuna fishery is nothing more than a monopoly for five boats.

The worst part about the purse seine monopoly is that they shouldn't be taking anything but an incidental catch of bluefin tuna in any case. When bluefin fishing was virtually shut off by NMFS in 1982, fishing was restricted to that necessary for monitoring of the stocks. At a State Department meeting I attended, our scientists declared that they had no use for purse seine catch information. The reason is quite obvious. Using spotter planes, the seiners could catch the last school of tuna in the ocean! At that point, the seiners were to be restricted to a small by-catch of school tuna in the course of seining for skipjack.

At the International meeting that year in Miami, the Japanese made it very clear that the U.S. was as much at fault as they were for the bluefin problem due to a history of excessive seining of school tuna. Since they were making the greatest sacrifice, the Japanese were very anxious to see us put the clamps on the purse seiners in order to permit the survival of the additional young produced by giants no longer pursued by longliners as they were spawning.

By the time of the 1982 hearings, NMFS had jacked up the purse seine school tuna by-catch to an unrealistic and highly inflated figure. Though I protested, I was reassured by the fact that a 10 percent by-catch limit was also involved. That should have kept the actual tuna catch very low. However, after the hearings, a provision was inserted that allowed the purse seiners to take a directed catch of giants for all the by-catch of schoolies not used. Naturally, with the opportunity to catch expensive giants instead of cheap schoolies, the purse seiners suddenly found it possible to conduct a skipjack fishery with practically no school tuna by-catch! Instead, they slaughtered 1973 year class mini-giants and mediums east of Block Island—even overfishing the quota they weren't entitled to. This was the same fall that New York Bight anglers were shut off without even a chance to catch a giant tuna!

With the overall quota increased last year, the wraps came off completely. The purse seiners retained the right to transfer the school tuna by-catch into giants (even though they'd proved the year before that the big by-catch was a farce) and got a large allocation of giants in addition. Yet, we were still operating under the international agreement specifying bluefin fishing for monitoring purposes only—and our scientists still had no need for the purse seine information!

It's quite clear to anyone who has studied the situation that the troubles with the bluefin tuna population can't be laid at the doorstep of the anglers, harpooners and hand-liners. The bluefin was super-abundant in our waters until the West Coast purse seiners moved in briefly during the 1960s. Then the reduced population was further stressed by the continuing depredations of the East Coast purse seiners on the young fish and the Japanese longliners on the pre-spawning giants. The Japanese have paid the price for their excesses, but the East Coast purse seiners receive special treatment for the destruction they've caused over the years—while the rest of the tuna fishing fraternity is left to pick up the scraps!

In limited entry situations, there's usually an emphasis on historical fisheries. However, that's not the case with the purse seiners. While purse seining for school and medium tuna started about 25 years ago, those boats have sought giants only in recent years. The historic giant tuna fishery is with rod and reel—and it started on the East Coast over 70 years ago when Zane Grey and his compatriots fished from small boats off Sea Bright, New Jersey. That's particularly true south of Cape Cod. Just a few years ago I proposed to NMFS that the fishery south of Cape Cod be restricted to rod and reel. I foresaw the improvement in fishing with the 1973 year class, and wanted to avoid future gear conflicts and excessive exploitation. I also had plenty of justification, as the NMFS statistics for the previous year showed all giants caught by rod and reel—not even a hand-line or harpooned fish! In addition, the purse seiners had been catching their fish north of Cape Cod. What a shame that anglers here were too complacent to fight for that proposal then!

Within the next few days, anglers have a choice. They can sit on their butts (as usual) and accept whatever crumbs are handed out to them by NMFS, or they can get serious and protest the squandering of a limited resource by giving it to purse seiners who shouldn't be getting anything under our international agreement. What is being done is probably illegal and certainly immoral! Yet, it will continue to go on if those adversely affected allow it to do so.

The National Marine Fisheries Service has already determined that it will not be necessary to hold hearings on the proposed regs this spring. Your only opportunity to change anything will be to write now. Instead of groups from each area fighting with each other over who gets what from the same general category allocation (and there will be hundreds of new entrants this year), now is the time for everyone to pull together and insist that NMFS transfer the purse seine quota to the general category. You can be sure my letter or telegram will be there—will yours?

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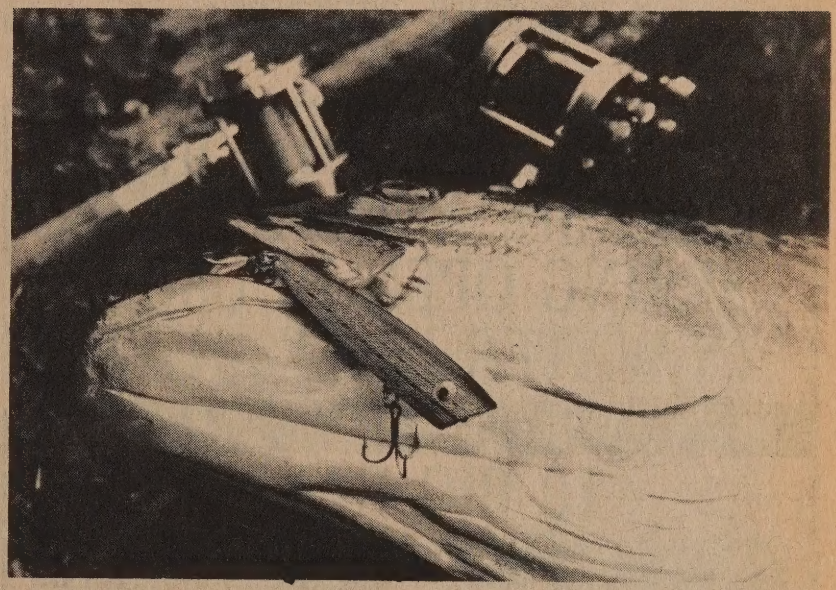
STATE PROPOSALS FALL SHORT ON STRIPED BASS PROTECTION

by Dick Russell



Only three of the 12 Atlantic Coastal states—Massachusetts, North Carolina and New Hampshire—could show conclusively how they intend to achieve a 55 percent reduction in their fishing effort for striped bass, at a scientific review of their proposals in early April in Woods Hole, Massachusetts.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, after closing the Woods Hole meeting to the public and media, finally announced the workshop's results two weeks later at a press conference in Boston. While Phil Coates, head of the coastal Striped Bass Board and Massachusetts' Director of Marine Fisheries, tried to put a good face on the states' commitment to meeting the emergency plan, the initial results did not seem very promising.

New York, for example, proposed some area closures which amounted to only a **five** percent cutback beyond the current 24 inch minimum size limit management plan. Delaware, which still hasn't met the original plan's requirements, had nothing new to suggest. Maryland outlined a 27 percent reduction for '84, already made largely moot after commercial gill netters successfully obtained a court injunction allowing them to keep fishing for small stripers all through March. Virginia, the other key Chesapeake producer state, achieved only a 35 percent reduction.

All of which should add fuel to the Federal fire, to save the striper from impending oblivion as a fisherman's resource. Shortly after the Woods Hole gathering, Massachusetts Congressman Gerry Studds introduced a new bill in the U.S. House of Representatives that would impose a Federal moratorium in the waters of any state which has not met the 55 percent figure by December 1. In his Congressional Record statement, Rep. Studds commented: "State action would be preferable, but it must be sufficient to guarantee that the striped bass will recover and thus far, this has not been the case."

Asked to comment on the states' workshop, Studds' bass man Andy Schwarz added: "It's certainly not encouraging. What we want to know is, how close are the other states? Is it clear that many are not doing anything period, or are there other problems involved? In other words, were they close or were they just punting? We're supposed to get a briefing with a state-by-state breakdown in the very near future about this."

Two other bills in the Congress also address the striper's plight and the states' lack of uniform management response. Rep. Claudine Schneider's would take complete Federal control and place an immediate three-year moratorium on all striper possession along the Eastern Seaboard. Senator John Chafee's would impose an immediate moratorium until a state achieved the 55 percent, and would leave room for a blanket moratorium in the future if the Chesapeake reproductive survey remains at a critical level. In all three bills, jurisdiction would fall to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration under the Department of Commerce.

Last fall, after another dismal year for young-of-the-year survival in the Chesapeake, the Scientific & Statistics Committee of the Atlantic Commission's Bass Board originally discussed shutting down the coastal fishery entirely. The 55 percent reduction, over-and-above the 1981 management plan, was a compromise which theoretically would increase striper egg production by sixfold. All the states voted unanimously to seek to come up with this by April.

"Those states that did fall short are now re-evaluating," Phil Coates told the press after the April meeting. "Quite frankly, a lot of them did not have a chance to benefit from this kind of analysis, until a group of scientists in a sterile environment with computer programs could do their thing. "It's been hard trying to get them to pull together, but all the states do realize there is a cudgel or higher authority looking over their shoulder. No one wants to be the one who brings a Federal moratorium down."

It's now a wait-and-see process, with the Atlantic States Commission scheduled to take up the question at a meeting in Washington on May 23, but in the meantime, it's fishing-as-usual for stripers as the annual spring migration gets under way. It appears highly unlikely that most of the states will meet the 55 percent reduction in 1984. The question is, how much foot-dragging can the dwindling striper population afford?

Even in the states which are contemplating quick action, the absence of uniformity with their neighbors may render the new conservation measures relatively meaningless. For example, let's compare the plans of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

In Massachusetts, anyone who sells even a single striper would be required to purchase a special permit. The fee, probably $20, would be in

(Continued on next page.)

addition to the current fishing license requirement of $25. Commercial sale of stripers would be allowed only between June 1 and September 30. That would eliminate the big month of October, which in 1983 accounted for 42 percent of the state's total commercial landings of 226,052 pounds. Both the spring and fall runs of stripers would thus be protected from commercial harvest. The minimum size limit would remain, and for recreational fishermen a one fish per day limit over 24 inches would be imposed year-round. Public hearings will take place in mid-May, and the state Division of Marine Fisheries hopes to have new regulations in place by June.

But in Rhode Island, where a total moratorium will stay in effect at least into the summer months, state officials are proposing to go back to an 18 inch Total Length minimum size limit for both rod-and-reel and net fishermen. All rod-and-reelers would have a year-round two fish per day limit over that size. The trap net, gill net and trawl fisheries would be limited to catching stripers in only one month of the year. But that open timeframe falls between mid-October and mid-November, right during the fall run, when neighboring Massachusetts would be closed down to commercial sale.

As Randy Fairbanks, chairman of the S&S Committee and Massachusetts' Assistant Director of Marine Fisheries, commented at the press conference: "There's no question that, if allowed to focus on the fish during that month, the catch of the Rhode Island trap fishermen would increase largely as a function of other people making sacrifices." Added Coates: "Any change in the minimum size limit agreed to in the plan, I look askance at. But these are problems we'll have to wrestle with."

At the Woods meeting, Rhode Island's 18 inch idea was not tossed out, but rather ruled to be based on data that was insufficient to either accept or reject. So Rhode Island fisheries staffers are now back at the drawing board, trying to justify it. At a meeting of the Marine Fisheries Council on April 10, biologist John O'Brien estimated that keeping the trap net season open only from Oct. 20 to Nov. 15 would amount to 37.5% of their previous amount of effective fishing time, allowing gill nets between Oct. 15 and Nov. 15 would be 40% of what their fishing effort was before. Gill netters would also have additional closed areas and gear restrictions.

In the other New England states, both Maine and New Hampshire have proposed outlawing the sale of any stripers caught in their waters. Both would allow fishermen to keep four bass a day, and New Hampshire would add a seasonal closure. The Scientific Committee recommended that there be no striper possession allowed under 24 inches. Connecticut, which had had a no-sale law in place for sometime, came in with a four fish a day proposal, two of which could be between 16 and 24 inches. Again, it was recommended that possession under 24 inches be banned completely.

But moving down the coast, the state plans get weaker. New Jersey proposed allowing a 10 fish per day possession limit and it was suggested that this number be at least halved. New York is at a virtual standstill concerning anything beyond the 24 inch limit law which passed the legislative procedure last summer. "It's a very difficult situation," says New York Fisheries Chief Gordon Colvin. Because its Hudson River striper population is comparatively strong, and it's hard to know whether most of the coastal stock is from the Hudson or the Chesapeake, New York legislators are reluctant to do any more. This situation could change next January, when the Fisheries officials obtain regulatory authority over striped bass.

As mentioned, Delaware has proposed doing nothing beyond the probable passage of a 24 inch limit law in its State Legislature this year. A net fishery which caught about 25,000 pounds of stripers in '83 claims that its harvest is largely a by-catch of the perch fishery, and that eliminating this opportunity would put them out of the perch business.

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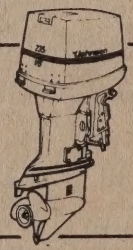

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Commission has approved a plan for a 26 inch Total Length minimum size limit in all inland waters, effective in July. Delaware and New Jersey agreed in a joint resolution to seek the same regulations in their own inland tributaries.

In the Mid-Atlantic states, Maryland and Virginia continue to come up short. Only North Carolina, which until now has resisted even raising its minimum size limit above 12 inches, did a real turnaround. Although its winter fishery was allowed to keep scooping up stripers this year, in 1985 it's possible that the state will have a complete moratorium on all striper fishing in its ocean waters. This would stop harvest of the Chesapeake migratory bass, while North Carolina's inland fishery (an Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River spawning population) would continue.

Reflecting on all the state plans, Striped Bass Board Chairman Ralph Abele of Pennsylvania says: "I did a little yelling at the meeting, particularly at certain states. At this point I'm not too hopeful we can get the big states that count to do anything meaningful in time this year. I was looking for a firm commitment to take to our executive session in Washington, but this hasn't really occurred."

The states, of course, jealously guard their traditional right to manage migratory species within the three mile territorial sea. In recent weeks, as the striper controversy has swirled through the national media and with the movement by the Congress, an atmosphere approaching paranoia has come to surround their deliberations. The Woods Hole gathering was the most blatant example. Using the excuse that certain privileged information concerning fishermen's catch data would be discussed, Atlantic Commission lawyers authorized declaring the meeting an "executive session" and keeping the public out.

Then the Scientific & Statistics Committee decided to speak publicly "with a single voice," through Phil Coates. "This is a very sensitive issue," as Randy Fairbanks put it, "and it would be disruptive to start leaking the results in bits and pieces." So everyone in attendance, including striper scientific expert Dr. John Boreman, could only say "No comment."

For nearly two weeks, Coates said he was too busy to issue any statements because Fairbanks' report wasn't finished and the Massachusetts officials were embroiled in a local controversy over foreign fishing rights to squid. In Washington, an official with the Atlantic States Commission expressed frustration with the delay: "People are getting suspicious and that shouldn't be. They're saying the report is being held up so that the Federal government can't do anything."

In the end, it seemed that there simply wasn't that much of substance to report. Coates has gone on record stating that, if the states fail to come through, he would support a Federal moratorium. But at the press conference, he was intent on painting an optimistic picture. Again, though, can the Chesapeake striped bass survive fishing-as-usual by most states in 1984? Isn't is time for that Federal "cudgel" to be brought into play?

Outside the Congressional domain, the National Marine Fisheries Service has again turned down a petition by Stripers Unlimited to declare the striper an endangered or threatened species. Bob Pond, head of S.U., has announced plans to challenge this decision in the courts.

But let's close this latest report from the striper front on a positive note. On the island of Martha's Vineyard, according to the **Vineyard Gazette**, a growing number of restaurants catering to the tourist trade have decided to take striped bass off their menus. Eight restaurant owners polled by the newspaper have announced such a policy. As one fish buyer put it, "It's the principle of it. The fish is getting wiped out. I'd like my kids to be able to catch a striper." If this indicates the beginning of a trend, the simple economics of supply-and-demand may begin to "solve" all the state bureaucrats' problems—and even pave the way for a mounting citizens' campaign to do what's right: A striped bass moratorium.

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SOUTH SIDE WRASSE

by Gerald Hahn

Shore casters find action with spring blacks amidst Fire Island Inlet's rock piles.

Some people say that blackfishing in the spring is only a hint of bigger things to come in the fall. Perhaps they are right, since the largest blackfish—specimens from 5 to more than 10 pounds—seem to be taken in late October and November. Then again, there isn't much else to fish for at that time, especially from the surf. Compare this with spring, when blackfish are competing for the shore-bound angler's attention with such species as flounder, weaks, bass, and in some places, early arriving blues, porgies and fluke. No wonder so many people believe that blackfishing in the spring is poor.

Yet the truth is that blackfish are just as abundant in spring as in fall. The blackfish, a member of the wrasse family, is not migratory, and he spends the winter in a lethargic state in deep local waters. When the temperature reaches the mid-50s, however, the fish move inshore. And since these temperatures occur twice a year, there are two distinct blackfish runs.

When blackfish move inshore, they are very selective about their homes. The fish are fond of rough bottom formations, including rocks, mussel beds, wrecks, pilings and bridge supports, wherever various shellfish are found. Consequently, most people fish for them on the north shore's glacial deposits. But blackfish are also found on the south shore, at any of the major inlets and in certain sectors of various bays.

Consider Great South Bay, for example. If you cross the Robert Moses Bridge and park in the west end at Field 2, you will find several places where blackfish congregate. The first is under the bridge itself, where the supports attract numerous barnacles and mussels. The second is off the rocks at Democrat Point, which forms part of Fire Island's complex inlet. And the third is a place I call the Point, which is about three blocks west of the bridge and opposite the entrance to parking field 2. Here, on the bay side of the inlet, a rock pile spills off the beach and into the water, forming a point that curves to the west. On the ebb tide, water kicks up around the submerged rocks, but even on the flood a rip is evident. A nice thing about this place is its accessibility from the nearby parking lot. Another is that the rocks are within reach of the average surf-caster's range. And a third, of course, is the blackfish that reside here.

Blackfish are as abundant here in the spring as in the fall, yet competition for choice spots is minimal.

As with most blackfish spots, however, the terrain is rough at the Point and fishermen must use stout gear. A beefy 8 foot jetty stick is ideal, especially when matched with a medium to large surf spinning reel, such as the Daiwa 7000 or the Penn 650. Many of the old-timers here rely on the Garcia 306. Any of these reels should be spooled with 20 lb. test monofilament.

The best rig for fishing the Point consists of a #4-6 Virginia hook on a 12 inch leader of 40 lb. test, about three inches above an end loop for a three ounce bank sinker. A dropper loop on the main line, or better yet, on a short leader of 30 lb. test, holds the snelled hook. When using a leader for the rig, which saves line when a snag occurs, a barrel swivel is employed. the swivel bridges the leader to the fishing line with two improved clinch knots. Although two hooks rigs are

also used for blackfish, whether tied in tandem or high low fashion, a single hook is recommended here. Blackfish are seldom caught two at a time (even in the fall) and fewer rigs are lost.

The Virginia hook is a blackfish specialty item for which there is no substitute. It is a blued hook with a short bite and an offset bend, perfectly matched to the blackfish's small mouth and to the bait it is designed to secure, namely crabs. The hook is so strong, it seldom straightens even when hung up on a rock and torn free.

The two most commonly used crab baits for blackfish are fiddlers and green crabs. Fiddlers are easier to work with, since they require no preparation. Simply impale one of these tiny crabs (about the size of a thumbnail) through the rear of the shell and let it thrash its claws and legs about. Some fishermen remove the large fiddler claw of the male and insert the hook point through the socket and out the rear. Rigged either way, these lively little crabs, with their marvelous "China back" patterns, are excellent blackfish catchers.

Nonetheless, many blackfish aficionados favor green crabs. These crabs are larger than fiddlers, although small specimens may be rigged in the same manner. The largest ones are usually cut in half, from head to tail, and then perhaps quartered. There are various ways to rig these sections. The first is to use a piece as is, by impaling the hook through the shell, between the legs. Another is to break off the legs and insert the point through one socket and out another. And a third is to peel away the entire shell, legs, claws and all, and use what remains, a chunk of white crabmeat and gristle. Insert the hook point in the gristle. Incidentally, green crabs as well as fiddlers should be rigged in such a way that the point is ever so slightly exposed. The barb, however, should be wedged inside the shell for security.

Spring blackfish will also respond to soft baits and when bait shops are out of crabs, try a sandworm or even a clam. Half a sand worm threaded on the hook, or a slice of skimmer twisted and impaled several times on the hook, is not only attractive to spring blackfish but to any flounder, fluke, porgy or weak in the vicinity. Unfortunately, these baits also attract bergalls at the Point and elsewhere.

The best blackfishing at the Point occurs around a tidal change. On the outgoing tide, anglers wade out along the rock pile and cast to deep water. On the flood, they work the bottom near the rip. After casting, the angler waits for the rig to settle and then fishes a dead stick. Some people use a sand spike and wait for a hit, but it is really better to hang onto your rod. Blackfish are cunning, like their relatives, the bergalls, and will quickly nibble away a crab or even a soft bait on the hook. Another reason for hanging onto the rod is that you can work the bait a little. Most people cast too far for blackfish, perhaps just to see how far they can cast. Then they let the bait sit way out there, while the blackfish are working closer to shore. Working the bait, consequently, means bringing the rig in a few feet at a time, until the fish are located. It does not mean jigging the bait up and down.

When a blackfish takes the bait, the rod should be raised instantly while simultaneously cranking the reel. These combined reactions pull the fish out of the rocks where no harm can come to the line. Indeed, at the Point the rod should be held high all the way through the fight, since the inshore waters are studded with rig snaring rip-rap and the fishing is being performed from a low position.

Windy days should be avoided in Great South Bay, unless you'd rather catch salad than the main course. Wait a few days for the water to cleanse itself of floating seaweed and tidal debris.

Spring blackfishing at the Point is best performed in May and early June. Before and after this period, the water is either too cold or too warm for blackfish. Before Memorial Day, you won't have to pay a toll to cross the bridge and you can pick up some bait in Captree without paying a parking fee. Captree is one of the exists on the Robert Moses Causeway before the bridge. When you cross the bridge, make a right turn and follow the signs to Field 2.

Blackfish may have an ugly exterior, but the meat is chunky and white, excellent for fish chowder as well as for baking, frying or broiling. Two problems here are the fish's deeply embedded scales and slimy hide, since the former are impossible to remove and the latter is inedible, so most people fillet the fish. You can also bake the fish whole in foil. Most of the skin adheres to the foil, and although the fish looks a little messed up, it is excellent table fare. Better yet is to skin the blackfish like a catfish, and then coat it with bread crumbs for frying.

Skinning a blackfish requires a utility knife and a pair of pliers. Make a light incision on the diagonal from the top of the head, along the back of the pectoral fins, and all the way to the underside. Repeat on the other side of the head. Now, make another cut along the top of the fish, from the first cuts at the head to the tail, working around both sides of the dorsal fin. Remove the dorsal fin with the pliers, pulling it from tail to head. Peel away a section of skin near the top of the head, where the first cuts meet the second cut. Grab hold of the skin with the pliers and pull all the way back to the tail. Repeat on the other side. Finally, cut off the head and tail. Though it sounds complicated, skinning a blackfish is easier than filleting one.

Why wait till fall to catch blackfish, when they are just as abundant in the spring? This season, try a south side wrasse.

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FLOUNDERING AROUND THE NORTH FORK

by Martin & Janet Garrell

The eastern reaches of Long Island Sound and neighboring Peconic Bay provide quality flatfishing through the month of May.

For many serious anglers Long Island Sound takes on a symbolically slender shape in the month of May. After all, this is the "official" mackerel season. However, the switch to the silver speedsters causes some who should know better to put away their flounder gear prematurely. In fact, the period from late April through Memorial Day is probably the best time to put good supplies of fine firm fillets into the freezer from the medium and large sized fish moving along the Sound from points east of Riverhead.

Tired of complaints about picks of postage stamps? There are some pods of these big-water fish that average 14 inches in length and tip the scales at an honest 1½ pounds. Also most groups of flatties contain at least a few individuals of 2½ pounds that measure 17 inches or more. Not that you don't see smaller flounder; it's just that you'll be releasing fish smaller than 12 inches and less than a pound on really good days. You'll think twice about leaving a net at home, too, if you strike it rich on the "snowshoes."

Maybe you're tired of "watery" spring flounder as well. Certainly, if you fish either the Peconics or the Sound before mid-April, you'll catch many fish that have only recently spawned after poking their noses out of the spring mud. Until these flounder have worn the feed bag for a couple of weeks, their flesh won't be firm enough for good frying. By the time the first week of May rolls around, almost every flattie is prime, and even the most complex poaching recipes work out well; May fillets won't fall apart in the poaching liquid.

Nets are not out of place for some of the flatties taken in these parts.

Where to fish is easy enough. Starting around April 15th to 20th, when the water temperatures rise through the mid-40s, the best concentration of flounder will be found from Rocky Point or Mount Sinai east to Jamesport or Riverhead. Then, each week, unless storms speed the process, the fish move east about 7 to 10 miles. Mattituck Inlet usually peaks before the first week of May, while the zone from Petty's Bight to Orient Point hosts the best and biggest fish near the end of that month. Strange as it sounds, although the majority of the flounder disappear offshore; i.e., New London and beyond, for the summer, sharpies continue to bag fat 1½ pounders and an occasional mini-rug over 2 pounds well into June. Apparently water temperatures and food supplies there must be to the liking of certain individuals among the winter flatfish tribe.

Although spring flounder are "on the move," they feed voraciously, and whether they are flopping over rocky or muddy bottoms, they're very susceptible to chumming. In fact, there's usually a direct corollary between efficiency of chumming and numbers of flounder taken. Readers of The fisherman already know the golden rule: a weighted pot loaded with cracked mussels or frozen clams or both lowered to the bottom and bounced occasionally is positively deadly as an attractor! The next best bet is a group of cracked mussels batted into the water just uptide of the boat. This latter procedure won't always work well on the Sound if you're fishing in more than 20 feet of water because shells wobble into the depths in all directions; but it's decidely better than not chumming at all.

There do seem to be exceptions to the "always chum for flounder" rule, however. When the fish are spread thinly in an area and the tide is slack, it may actually pay to drift for awhile and to locate the flounder that way. After all, you are fishing in warming waters, and the larger flounder seem more aggressive and inclined to pound on a moving bait. Finally, it's one thing to pick through average

sized flounder of a pound or so and come up with a few trophy fish, but it's quite another to disperse chum where sea robins abound and pick through the robins for an occasional flatfish. The robins arrive in the area near Mattituck Inlet a few days after the flatfish run peaks, and they are hard to avoid. Dispersing chum seems to worsen the problem, but some folks prefer to keep on fishing doggedly through the bat-wings to get a pick of flounder. Perhaps these people have seven rods apiece plus the patience of Job! We generally move to other spots or drift for awhile.

There's no need to alter your favorite small hook, two hook flounder rig if you fish the eastern Sound run. The mouths of your quarry are the same even though the fish may be larger. Chestertowns down to #10, Sproats to #6 or #8, and beaked hooks in #1s to #8s work just fine provided you don't insist on swinging large fish over 1½ pounds aboard by the leader. Small hooks hold beautifully, but they were never meant for use as grapples to replace landing nets. We usually put a small barrel swivel above the looped hooks and rig a fish finder with a small sliding sinker from one to four ounces on a shock tippet attached to the main strand. If you are using more than three or four ounces of lead, you're probably out of prime flounder territory. Finally, for a combination of fun and efficiency, try some light tackle on these fish with lines testing four to eight pounds. Ultralight specialists find that they can go to just about any line strength they dare, provided they can still handle their sinkers in gentle currents and 15 to 30 foot depths.

Until last season, we'd taken a number of fish in the 2 to 2¼ pound range (duly recorded on scales), but somehow the bigger stuff had always eluded us. Because we'd worked our way down to the four pound (two kilogram) line class with ultralight conventional gear and graphite plug rods, there was always the gnawing question of just how tough the largest of the flounder would be. Late last April we made the necessary connection off the Northville Pipe. Nothing special about the nibble, but when we raised the rod to set up, the tip simply stayed down. The fish never took much line until it rode the escalator halfway to the surface, but there was no holding back its downward plunges. After a few minutes of give and take, we readied the net, looked at the tan splotch flapping under the surface, and nearly lost our Polaroids in surprise. A 1¾ pound, 15 inch flounder was on one hook and a 2.13 pound, 17 inch fish was on the second! We no longer have qualms about choosing the frail wands.

Bait? Why are worms, skimmers, and red-dyed clams even mentioned for the spring Sound run out east anyway? East End bait shops stock 'em, and some anglers persist in using them; but in almost ten years we've never seen them catch better than mussels. Whether it's the color, the scent of the fresh stuff, or the mere fact that the inshore flatties probably see more bank mussels than any other food, we don't know; but fresh mussel, sliced from the shells with a thin knife, is impossible to beat. If you have difficulty baiting long-shanked hooks with gobs of soft gold and keeping it there, why not switch to short shanks with bait-holder barbs? The only adjustment you'll have to make is carrying a disgorger to remove hooks from the hungriest of the slurpers.

Although tides don't seem quite so critical on the eastern Sound as they are on Peconic Bay, it's a good idea to give yourself at least one full turn of three hours, preferably around high water, to find the fish solidly. A whole tide is even better. Often a call to the Mattituck Fishing Station, Warren's in Aquebogue, Jamesport Bait, Port of Egypt in Southold, or Art White in Greenport can pinpoint where the best concentrations of fish are and what stage of the tide has been hot that week. Incidentally, this could be a curious year for new flounder hot-spots because of the beach configurations shaped by Storm Nelson, the winter hurricane of late March. One favorite launch site for early May flounder-pounders, Riverhead town's Pier Avenue Ramp is no longer there, along with a number of bungalows which once served for triangulation.

As the season moves along, weather becomes less of a problem because prevalent winds turn into a southerly quarter. However, even if a late spring weather pattern disrupts small boat fishing, one can still make a good day of it on the Sound with the North Fork party boats, Blue Albatross, Prime Time II, Peconic Star and Brand X. We fished through an early May nor'easter several years ago aboard the Brand X and were pleasantly surprised at the stability of the platform and the good fishing results. Late May fishing conditions see the latter two boats shift over to Peconic porgies, but the former tend to stick with flounder until fluke arrive in numbers.

Of much more concern than the weather is dragging activity by small commercial operators. This activity gets quite intense by mid-May. It's not unusual to have flounder solid off Truman's Beach and Petty's Bight for a couple of days and then have them wiped out within 12 hours. Those particular areas seem especially vulnerable to commercial onslaughts. That's another good reason to call an area station before flying blind and running your hopes up the flagpole.

Still, the possibilities of striking it rich on the eastern Sound flounder run in May are very good. Hit it solidly just once and return with a couple of fish that will each feed two or three hungries, and you may have a hard time returning to the world of ten inchers. You may even think twice about breaking out the mackerel trees next season!

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THE MACKEREL ARE COMING!

by Louis Mauriello

During the month of May, many of us die-hard flounder and blackfishermen take time out from chasing our favorite species to defend our shores from attack by a huge army arriving from the south. Armed only with rod and reel, we board south shore party boats in droves or crank up our own engines, and head out to sea in an attempt to thin out this invading army.

No, this army is not that of some Third World nation, but rather the annual spring migration of the common Atlantic mackerel. These fish, also called "Boston" mackerel, pass by our shores twice a year. But is the abundance of the spring migration that causes excitement in local fishing ports to reach a fever pitch.

What is it about a fish, which only averages about one and half to two pounds, that will cause such a commotion when other species which I consider better table fare are now at the peak of their seasons? I think I may know the answers to that question, but first let me qualify my statement relating to the edibility of the mackerel.

Though I prefer to dine on white meat fish such as cod, flounder, fluke, etc., a fresh caught mackerel has a lot going for it in the taste department. There are some folks I know who would rather have fresh mackerel for dinner than almost any of the other local species. I, myself, consider a fresh, broiled mackerel a very tasty repast. However, if you've noticed, I've been using the word FRESH quite often. My definition of fresh means the fish hasn't been frozen. If thawed out mackerel is being served, I will eat something else. I have had this habit for quite a few years and several people think that I am quite peculiar (my wife included), but recently, my son confirmed my belief that mackerel tastes "oilier" (my English teacher must be turning over in his grave) once it has been frozen. He related something he learned in his Biology class concerning when an animal cell is frozen, the cell wall is destroyed, thereby causing the breakdown of the flesh. That would explain the "softness" of a mackerel that has been frozen and thawed.

Now, I will try to answer the question concerning the excitement that surrounds this little silvery torpedo. Actually, there are several answers for that question; so let me get started.

First, quite a few fishermen are not year-round advocates of the sport. They are what I call "fair weather fishermen." There is nothing wrong with that, if that is your choice. Because of this "fair weather syn-

(Continued on next page.)

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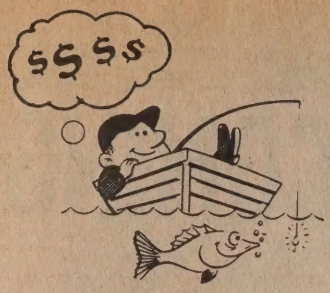

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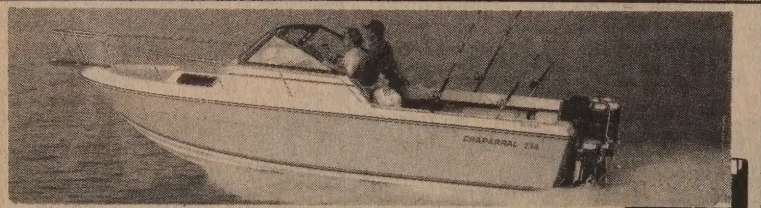

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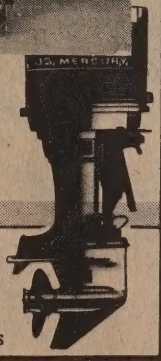

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drome" however, May, with its moderating weather patterns, is the logical beginning of a new fishing season for these folks.

Second, because the season for these handsome fish is unusually short, it may only last two or three weeks, some folks will try to get in as many trips as possible in this short time span.

The third reason I will cite, and certainly not the least, is the "catchability" of mackerel. During a good season, it is not unusual for the average fisherman to measure his catch by the sackful. This fact leads to a sore point with me. Many times I have seen loads of fish left on the dock, simply because a fisherman had no use for them. Please folks, take only what you can use, and use what you take.

Quite awhile ago, I learned that frozen mackerel are actually good for something. Whereas, the cell breakdown that occurs when freezing this fish is unpalatable to me, it enhances the fish catching ability of mackerel when used for bait. For anyone who hasn't noticed, mackerel makes an outstanding bait for bluefish, stripers, weakfish and when cut in strips, fluke. I have noticed that mackerel, when used as bait, really stands out if it has been frozen. It seems the same cellular destruction that I find distasteful is quite attractive to other fish. It seems to act like a miniature chum slick as the mackerel bait exudes its natural oils into the water.

If you are going to catch a big load of mackerel to use for bait at a later time, fine by me. Just freeze them whole, and when the need arises, take out what you need for a day's supply.

Now, on to the mechanics of mackerel fishing.

Catching mackerel is a fairly simple proposition, whether you choose to sail on a party boat or chase them with your own boat. For those who prefer the party boats, just hop aboard any time before sailing and let the captain and crew find them for you. It doesn't matter where you are located at the rail, for this kind of fishing, as you will be drifting and the boats usually alternate the drift to give both sides a shot at being on the windward side. (For the non-boaters, that means the wind is in your face and your line will move away from the boat.)

If you run your own boat, there are several ways of finding these fish. If you have a chart recorder, or flasher for that matter, run to the area where the fish were last reported and turn on your machine. If they're there, you'll see them clearly on your machine.

Sometimes, when the sea is calm, you can locate them by what appears to be an oil slick on the surface. Whether this slick is caused by the natural oils exuded by the fish, or something below feeding on them, I don't know. All I am certain of is that this slick is highly visible and a give-away to their location.

Another way of finding mackerel is

to buddy-up with another small boat equipped with electronics (if you don't) or, find the party boat fleet and fish nearby. Some caution must be exercised here, however. If you get too close to some of those large craft, you may find sinkers bouncing off your deck, or worse. What you should do is position your boat several hundred yards upwind of the drifting party boat. In this way, you will be able to catch fish from the same school and stay out of his way at the same time.

One thing I highly recommend, when fishing from your own boat, is the use of chum. Bunker chum does quite nicely and the only difference between chumming for bluefish and mackerel is in the consistency of the mixture. When chumming for mackerel, I like to mix the chum to a very loose consistency. I feel they should not be fed by the chum slick, but rather attracted by it. In turn, they will stay by your boat longer giving you more fishing time and less searching.

Once the fish are found, we break out our gear and start to bail 'em. The tackle used for mackerel fishing need not be very sophisticated. I employ a seven foot, fast taper, medium weight rod with a reel similar to the Penn Beachmaster, which is loaded with 25 pound test monofilament line. This rig enables me to cast a variety of different weighted jigs and still feel the hits of the fish. It also enables me to bounce those multiple hook-ups over the rail without any problems.

You can leave the sinkers at home for this kind of fishing. Do bring along several jigs, in weights from one to about four ounces. Depending on several variables, wind speed, depth of the fish, current, line test, you may have to switch from the lightest to the heaviest jig in your box on any given day. Use a double clinch knot to tie the jig to the line. It is easy to learn and will not fail. You simply pass the tag end of your line through the eye of the jig twice. Now, wind the end back up the line five turns and place it through the double loop which was formed at the jig eye. Simply snug it up and you've got a good, sound connection.

Above the jig, at 16 to 18 inch intervals, you can add, by way of droopper loops, all the mackerel tubes you desire. I use two tubes on my conventional gear and when using spinning gear, use only one. These tubes can be purchased in your local tackle shops and will last almost forever, so don't throw them out after one use. If, after several uses, the hook should get a bit rusty, simply buy some loose hooks of the same style and replace those that have deteriorated.

The actual technique involved for mackerel fishing is a very simple one. All you need do is get your rig to the proper depth, give it a couple of lifts, and you will have fish jumping on your hooks. That is really a bit of an over-simplification, so let me go a bit further. Since the mackerel may be found at any depth, on any given day, I start out by casting my rig and letting it settle to the bottom. Then, starting from the bottom, I will begin retrieving all the way to the surface. This is done by jigging the rig a few times and if you receive no hits, take about five turns on the reel handle and try again. Repeat this process until you have found the depth the fish are at. Then it is a simple matter to let your rig sink to the strike zone.

The above method works very well, most of the time. However, I have found that on windy days, your rig may be dragged along too quickly to attract much attention from the fish. Fortunately, I learned a little trick that will turn the normal tough fishing of a windy day into productive fishing. All you have to do is make sure you are fishing on the leeward side of the boat you are on. Because the wind is at your back, the boat will now drift over the rig you have cast. I find this helpful in two ways. First, I am able to use lighter jigs on windy days because I am not trying to send a jig flying into the teeth of a stiff wind. Secondly, because my all-time favorite lure for mackerel is the two ounce pencil jig, I find it will sink faster, thereby enabling me to give it more action.

Give the macks a try this season. The season is short and sweet, but it's intensity is tough to beat.

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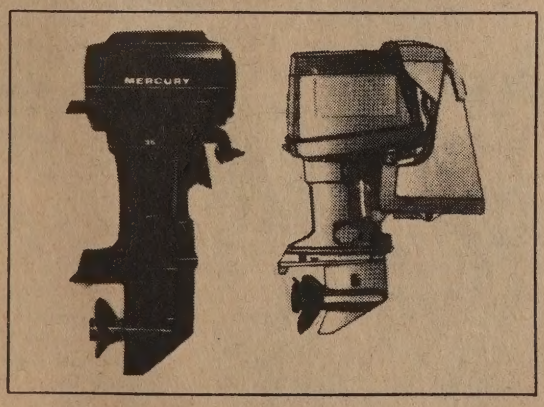

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START THEM OFF

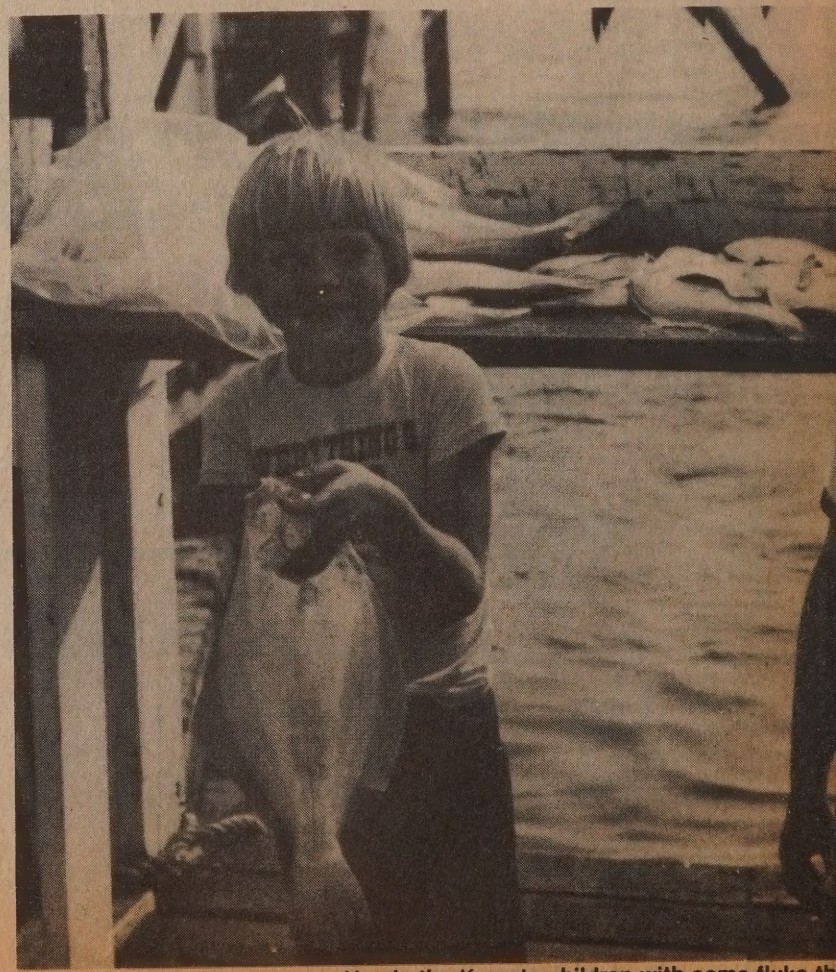
by Ron Kometa

When I first started thinking about exposing my kids to saltwater fishing, I kicked around the idea with a couple of friends. They thought I was about 99 cents short of $1 in the common sense department and that all the toys in the attic of the head department were broken. After all, they kept reminding me, the children were all of four and five years old; and that I'd certainly be a lot better off keeping them at the local reservoir for sunnies or bluegills.

So, with that advice, the very next week I scooped up those curtain-climbing crumb snatchers at 4AM and headed for the docks and a party boat. Whey did I pick a party boat? It's simple. I wanted the mini anglers to catch fish. The sea bass and ling were on the wrecks and there's nothing better for newcomers than a knowledgeable party boat captain to provide the action. Since that first trip in June several years ago, I've learned quite a bit about taking kids on boats from inshore to offshore and from fluke to cod.

One of the most important points to remember when taking your kids on their first few trips is that they need action on the other end of their rod to keep them interested in the fishing and not on dolls to outfit or mud puddles to stomp in. Little shavers need action and species, such as sea bass, porgies and even bergalls keep their interest and give them a taste of what catching fish is like.

The latter species has a PhD in bait stealing and keeps the kids busy with feeling bites, reeling and baiting. The important point is they have consistent action with species which live over wrecks. The next advantage to taking them on a wreck fishing trip is that sea bass, porgies and even small blackfish will eat a piece of clam and



Here's the Kometa children with some fluke th

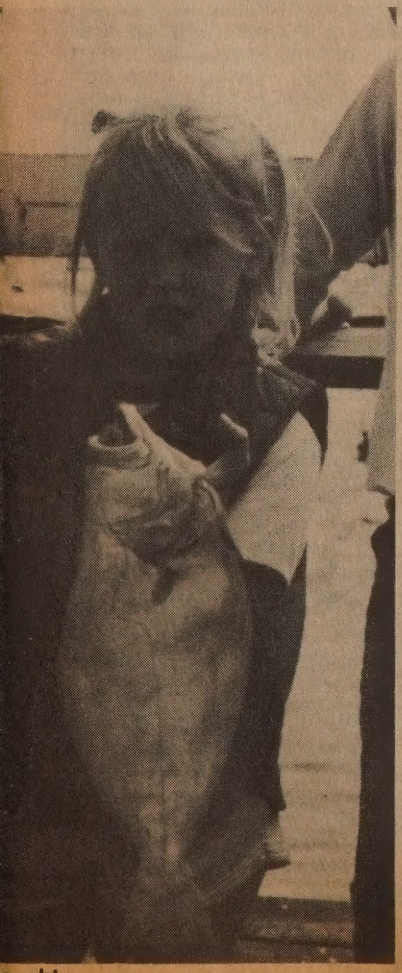
RIGHT!

not only are clams easy to use, but all those species are manageable for little hands, arms and endurance.

Also, fishing over wrecks usually means a couple of moves during the day and that gives a break from the job of holding a rod and reel and gives them a chance to relieve the ants in their pants syndrome.

A slammer size bluefish or tide-runner weakfish may be your glass of beer because you buy clothes off the adult rack, but if you go to the children's racks, those size fish are almost as long as the pants they wear. Blues and weaks are not the best species to let your kids who are barely big enough to hold a rod over the rail go after. Also, weakies do get moody from time to time and blues have their moments too; so bear that in mind before taking your kids on that kind of trip.

Even if the kids are in the 10 to 12 category and have never handled a rod and reel before, exposing them to big blues on the first trip may not be the best way to go and double that if it turns out to be a night chumming trip. I've seen enough adults have big, big problems on the nocturnal jaunts and I've also seen first time young anglers have disastrous trips at night.



aught.

One species which you should consider for the five and above set is the almighty fluke or summer flounder. They certainly won't do acrobatics in the water or cause a premature hernia to pop, but they are the right size and proximity to the beach for kids.

Unless you go after a storm when the water is dirty or are unlucky enough to hit a day when there is absolutely no drift, there should be enough action to keep kids occupied. One of the advantages to fluking is there are other critters, such as sea robins and sand sharks to grab the baits.

When it comes to sea robins, kids get a kick out of them since they grunt and look as though they should be on a landing strip rather than the ocean bottom and kids just love describing those urchins to their Moms and friends. And, when it comes to sand sharks, a 12 inch shark is a 12 foot denizen of the deep to a pair of young eyes. Fluke, sea robins and sharks hook themselves and I've seen the youngest of kids outfish adults on a regular basis with those species. This occurs because the younger ones listen and have a lot more patience to let the fluke inhale the baits right into their bellies.

Notice, folks, I've said nothing about mackerel or cod for the younger set. I've taken my son on those trips, but only after he had proven himself to be seaworthy and self-sufficient with a rod and reel. The cold water species, such as the whitings and cod and mackerel should only be attempted after the first few trips are under the youngster's belt. These trips also have other implications which fall into the "Help Dad to Stay Sane" category which we'll discuss in the second part of this series.

For openers, however, I suggest you start your children off right with some basic bottom fishing for the above-mentioned fish. Generally, the kids will have ample opportunity to hook a lot of fish, see the sights that are a part of the party boat fishing and at the same time, have the chance to join "dad" at a sport he enjoys.

One area that demands attention is tackle selection. I used a decrepit conventional style outfit during the early going and it was probably more trouble than it was worth. Kids should get off to a good start with tackle that is not too hard to master and if there is any area where they will lose interest quickly it is in tackle usage.

You might spend a few extra dollars for a decent outfit, but in the long run it will be money well spent. You may just end up with a fishing partner or two for life.

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PORTRAIT OF A BLACKFISH

by Matt Ahern

Some insight into the rock infested world of one of our most pugnacious bottom dwellers.

It has long been my belief that we sinker bouncers who wish to become outstanding fishermen should garner as much knowledge pertaining to our finny quarry as possible. And this is simply because anyone who has been fishing awhile will admit that there's more to fishing than sinking a hook into some unwary fish's mouth.

Without fail, every master fisherman I know has so much knowledge stored in his fish-oriented brain that it is indeed difficult to discern where the scholar ends and the layman begins. Unquestionably, this is one of the reasons these dedicated anglers are such fine fishermen. Should you get one of these experts warmed up on his favorite subject, I guarantee the information you receive will positively amaze you.

As the spring blackfish season is at hand, it is perhaps well if we devote a few minutes toward the lifestyle of this highly interesting game fish; and make no mistake about it—game fish is no misnomer. Should you doubt this, ask any fisherman who has wrestled a bulldog blackfish to the surface.

Fortunately for interested fishermen, blackfish are widespread; their coastal range being extensive, running from the Virginia Capes to Nova Scotia; the greatest abundance taking up residence from Long Island to New Jersey.

Blackfish aren't migratory in the true sense of the word, as are cod and mackerel, for instance. But it has been established that blackfish do have a definite inshore and offshore movement, which is solely governed by a need for cool water temperatures. Old chisel-tooth is seldom found in large concentrations beyond the 100 foot zone. Most offshore blackfish seem to favor the 60 foot depths—although this is not to say if an excellent feeding ground is in a 90 foot range that they will go hungry first before they enter it.

Depending upon the area fished, and because of the lack of precise nomenclature, most fish are known by more than one name—which can indeed be difficult for the beginner, to say the least. The blackfish is no exception in this respect. Should you hear New England fishermen praising the fighting ability of the tautog, don't sharpen up your hooks in anticipation of a new fish on your angling horizon. It's only our friend the blackfish being identified by its Indian name. The same applies to the Chesapeake Bay area where the names black porgy, chub, saltwater chub, white chin, and moss are often used. To the fishery scientist, the name **Tautoga onitis** is used to keep accurate records. But we fishermen from Long Island and New Jersey are content to settle for the unassuming descriptive name of blackfish.

But at times even this name can be deceptive as the color can range from dull black to greenish black, or brownish above, with more or less distinct irregular, dark bars or blotches. These bars and blotches are most noticeable in immature fish. In fact, fishery scientists recognize two color patterns: one being plain black, and the other having irregular blackish or brownish bars on a pale background.

However, fishermen would find it difficult to mistake a blackfish, for its stubby, muscular body is shared by no other local fish. Nature has designed this fish to live around reefs, old wreckage, rock piles, ledges and spilings around decaying piers and wharves—any and all sunken obstructions on a normally flat sea bed. And Nature has done her work well. Wherever barnacles, mussels, and various crustaceans of suitable size are found, there you will find blackfish.

A blackfish's skin is tough and slippery, which enables it to swim in and out of cluttered areas with ease and no injury. The scales are deeply embedded, as any fisherman who has attempted to remove them will admit. While not a schooling fish, old chisel tooth has the annoying habit (from the fisherman's viewpoint) of browsing over a selected area with its head down, tail up. Which means that should a bait miss this spot by just a few feet, it will go unnoticed. Tough—but that's the way it is with blackfish; which is one reason why you may get a blackfish at every drop, but your buddy only a few feet away will die of boredom.

The average blackfish caught in local waters will weigh about one pound, although much larger fish (especially in the fall) can be expected throughout the day. Eight to ten pounders are not at all uncommon,

A close-up and personal look at Mr. Blackfish. Dick Mermon photo.

especially when fishing Long Island Sound, the Montauk area, and throughout New England. It is my belief that New Jersey waters contain larger blackfish—on average—than does Long Island. I know I'll find plenty of fishermen who disagree with me on that, so we'll drop it for the time being.

And to prove that I may be wrong, the U.S. National Museum in Washington has a commercially caught blackfish weighing 22½ pounds and 36½ inches long. This record holder was taken in 1876 in New York Harbor (when the water was clean, of course), which makes it quite a mark on which to set your sights.

June is the big spawning month for blackfish in the Long Island and New Jersey areas. When water temperatures are most favorable for successful spawning, it is not uncommon to see scores of mature blackfish gamboling near the surface at this time—mostly at dusk.

I recall that some years ago off Sea Bright, Artie Leidecker and I were returning home from a good day's porgy fishing when we noticed a commotion in the sea some thousand feet ahead. We figured it was a late school of mackerel feeding on whatever small surface-swimming fish were available. But they were spawning blackfish and as we approached they showed no sign of fear. It would have been a simple task to lower our fluke net and reap a harvest—some of those fish were in the five to eight pound range. So fearless were they, that I actually lowered a gaff handle and laid it on the back of a big blackfish and pushed him below the surface, whereupon he swam right back up as if nothing happened. To net fish such as these would have been murder and nothing short.

Depending upon size of each female, eggs often number in the hundreds of thousands; the larger the fish, naturally, the more eggs it is capable of producing. I've been told blackfish do not feed at this time of spawning, but it is something I cannot verify.

When spawning, the fish are not paired as one might commonly suppose. Each large male is capable of fertilizing the entire egg yield from as many as eight to ten females. Nature leaves nothing to chance. And this being so, it is one of the reasons some authorities believe the ratio of ten females to one male in the fish world is quite common. In fact, some believe the ratio is more nearly twelve to one—but we won't split hairs. Just bear in mind that for every white-chinned male you catch, there are ten or twelve of the more gentler sex down there ready and willing to do battle with you.

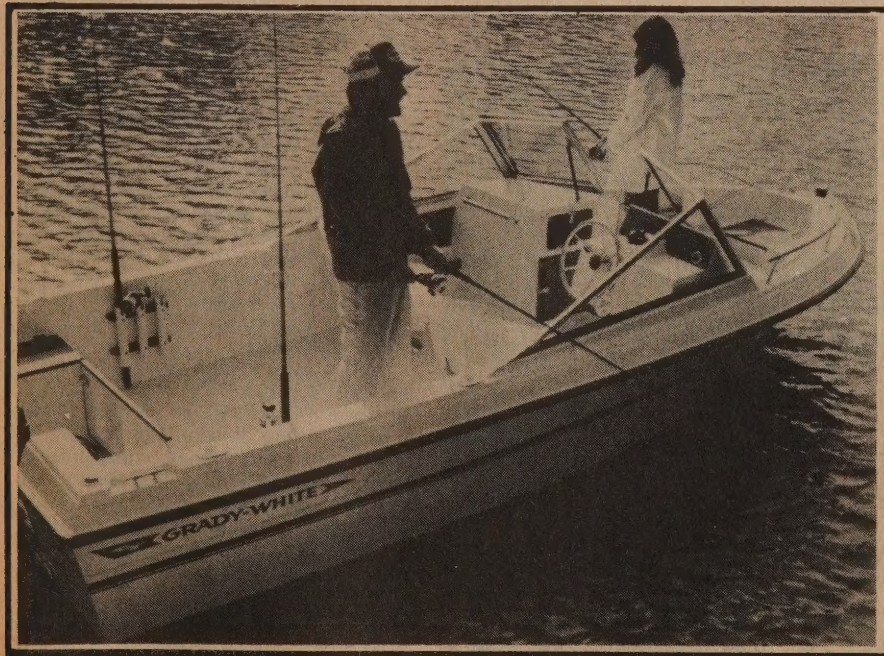
The eggs are buoyant, have no oil globule as do many other fish eggs, and are about 1/25 inches in diameter. They hatch in 42 to 45 hours at a needed temperature of 68 to 72 degrees. Undoubtedly many perish under adverse weather conditions, for blackfish are highly susceptible to severe fluctuations in water temperature.

Those that survive are approximately 1/12" at hatching. The nourishing yolk sac is completely absorbed by the time the infant reaches 1/8" in length. Its small, tough-as-leather mouth, equipped with those noticeable front teeth, is completely formed by then. At 3/8" many of the characteristics of the adult fish are already evident.

Growth is fairly rapid; fish from 3 to 6 inches are thought to be one year old. Weight also varies as one fish 13 inches long may weigh 1½ pounds; while another of 14 inches may only be a hair of 3/4 pounds. The reason for this is because some blackfish are much deeper in body than others; whether this is due to a separate strain of blackfish is unknown. From my personal observation, I find that female fish tend to show this particular characteristic.

You are now in possession of a little extra information on the pugnacious blackfish. If you make it a point to remember it, I'll guarantee you'll be able to amaze your fishing buddies any time you care to. And for some reason, you'll catch more blackfish, too.

And here you were thinking all along that a fish was just a fish. Shame on you!



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SPRING STRIPERS:

Hudson River Style

by Gary Caputi

Springtime in New York and a young man's heart turns to... Well, yeah, that too; but I was thinking more along the lines of the uncontrollable urge I get to head up into Westchester County to chase the early spring stripers that seem to abound there this time of the year.

For quite a few years now, I have spent time each spring starting in early April and running through May, fishing the Hudson from the area around the Tappan Zee Bridge north up to the area of Verplanck. The Westchester side of the river is by far the best, with the few exceptions being right around the Tappan Zee Bridge in Piermont and up through some of the yacht clubs in Nyack on the west shore.

About the first place that produces bass each year is the Croton Bay at the mouth of the Croton River and up around Croton Point. This is almost an annual occurrence with the first fish being taken around mid-April, but depending more on river temperature than on time of the month. The fish are usually not taken until the river warms up to 50 degrees, but I remember one year fishing with Ed Grazer, a tackle shop owner from Fort Lee, New Jersey, when we took two bass from the base of the Croton River R.R. Bridge unusually early in April. The water temperature was still just under 50 and we were really just up on a reconnaissance mission to check things out and we decided to make some casts, since we were there anyway. It was a cold, early spring morning and we were surprised when I took a fish on a worm. You can bet how surprised we were when Ed hooked another on a yellow bucktail worked painstakingly slowly across the bottom. Those were the only two fish we took for another 10 days.

For the most part, late April and most of May are prime. With all the late season snow and cold rain we have experienced this year, I would have to say that this year's season will be a bit later as river temperatures are still unusually low.

Fishing the river is often a tough proposition for anglers not familiar with the Hudson and the very unpredictable and varied movements of its fish. One very important factor that you must coordinate into your plans is the tides. Yes, the river is still very much tidal in these areas with tidal fluctuations of several feet. This becomes a prime concern, because just like ocean and bay stripers, these fish move in and out of areas with the tides.

The best time to fish in most areas described in this article are the outgoing tide from top to the dregs and sometimes the first half of the incoming tide. Slack water is very unproductive, but occasionally fish can be seen up on top at slack high water in Croton Bay. Just don't spend all your time looking for that, because it is rare.

Even with the tidal effects up here, the water is only mildly brackish. If fishing around the mouth of the Croton on outgoing tide, you will find the water fresh enough to support other kinds of bass, too. On several occasions I have caught large and smallmouth bass that run down to the mouth of the river and mix in with the stripers. I have seen a brown trout taken on a swimming plug meant for schoolie stripers.

I have waded the area upstream from the Croton R.R. Bridge and up into the Croton River proper. This area can easily be seen from Route 9, which runs right over it. There I have taken many small schoolie bass mixed right in with smallmouth bass using ultralight spinning tackle, small spoons and jigs. If you wade the south bank of the river around the Rte. 9 bridge and further upstream, casting toward the opposite shoreline, you will notice a nice steep dropoff about two-thirds of the way across the current. Fish often stack up right along the edge of this drop feeding on small bait fish.

By the way, if you like to wade streams for smallmouths, the Croton is a beauty a little further up. There are some nice pools that hold bass, but most are the small river variety.

Early in the season when the water is still in the low 50s, you can't beat

Subsurface swimmers often account for nice size stripers.

worms. We have used mostly sand worms, since they are easily obtained at a number of tackle shops found along Rt. 9, in Ossining, Croton and Verplanck. Also, if you're coming by, the Outdoorsman in Fort Lee usually has them by the dozen or flat. If using worms, it is advisable to bring a liberal amount, since the river has its share of bait stealers like white perch and tommy cod.

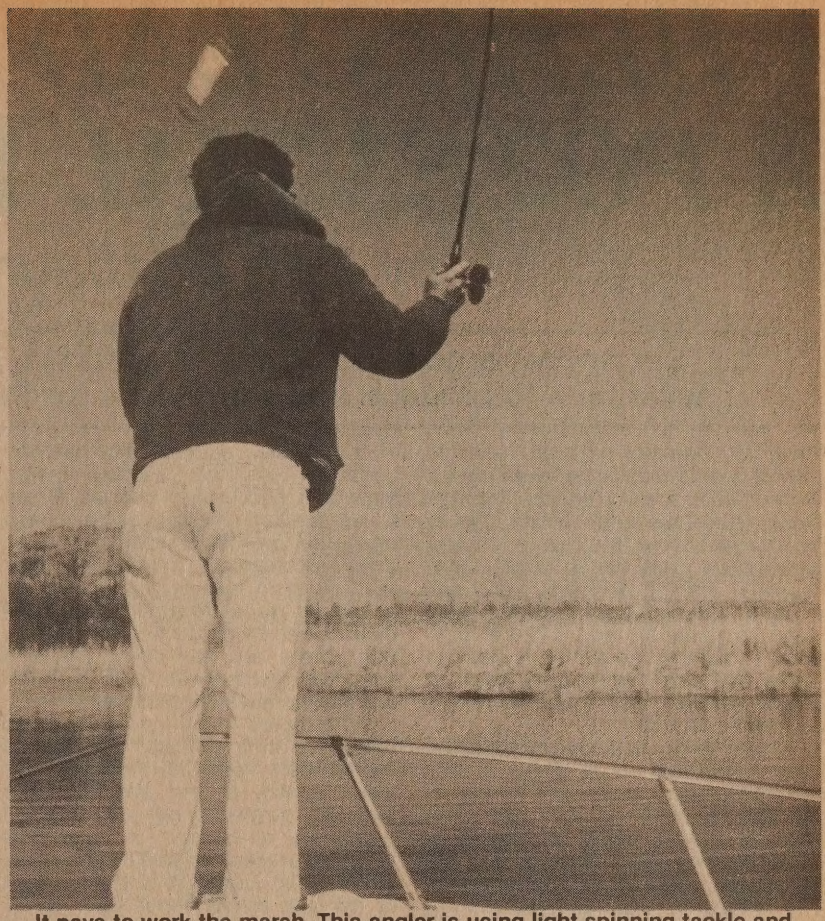
Artificials have varied degrees of success. As the water warms into the low and mid 50s, bucktails and soft bodied jigs will take fish. The old standby colors of white and yellow still seem to take the most fish, but when the water is real muddy, chartreuse and brown and black jigs have worked. When the water gets even warmer, mid to upper 50s, plugs start producing. The new Rapala mini-magnums (#9 and #11) worked well last year in the new Green and Cold color and silver. RedFins and Bomber Long A's also have worked well in basic silver with assorted back colors. One year yellow back swimming plugs were the hot ticket, but I don't think I've caught a fish on one since. Anybody want to buy some yellow back Rebels?

Occasionally school bass will bunch up and come up to the top and they can be taken on surface plugs, but this is highly unusual. Also, if you happen to run into this situation, you can expect them to be very small fish. Speaking of small fish, watch out for size minimums. Sixteen inches is as small as you can take them. No fishing license is required in this area, since it is still tidal water.

For shore-bound anglers, the easiest access to fish the river is at the Croton-Harmon Railroad Station. It is reached by heading north from the T.Z. Bridge on Rte. 9 through the scenic Sleepy Hollow area and exiting the highway at the Croton-Harmon exit. You cross over the highway and right into the train station. You can proceed into Croton Point Park, but the best fishing is closer to the R.R. bridge. I go into the station parking lot and keep heading toward the back until I pass the D.P.W. building and get on the dirt lot right up near the bridge. You can park there, usually without being hassled, and cross the tracks to fish the bay side.

Exercise extreme caution crossing the tracks, because these are the electrified type. There are breaks in the electrified rail that can be used to cross them. They easily noticed. Just be careful; you want to fry the fish, not yourself.

Fish around the railroad bridge and you can hike out to the point and fish the marsh outflow, too. The Croton Bay is very shallow in places and can make for easy wading. A few hundred yards south of the bridge is a sand bar well known (to the locals, anyway) called Crawbuckie Beach. It sticks out into the bay like a horseshoe and makes a good point to start your wading. Many larger fish have come off Crawbuckie, including a 38 pounder.



It pays to work the marsh. This angler is using light spinning tackle and small plug to fool hungry stripers.

Areas north of Croton Point up to Verplanck have many small marshes that pour out into the main river. These can attract good numbers of fish, especially on the outgoing tide and can be seen running out under small railroad bridges, which abound, since the tracks run right up the shore line of the river. Furnace Brook is probably the best known and is located between Oscawana and George's Island. There are many other smaller ones.

Boaters have fishing mobility on their side more than land-based anglers in this area. You can move around at will without figuring out where to park the car. Do get a good navigational chart of this area, because there are many very shallow bars, rock piles and piers which can do a lot more than just make for a long wait while the tide comes back in so you can float the boat again. Particular care should be taken in Croton Bay. I hate to think of some of the times I grounded the boat on sand bars and shallow flats in this area.

I use a 16 foot aluminum boat with a powerful, foot control trolling motor rather than just anchoring up in the channels. For launching in the Croton area, the best facility I have found is located in George's Island State Park, about five miles north of Croton Bay. It can be reached by continuing north past Croton-Harmon on Rt. 9 and exiting at York and Albany Post Road. Go past the Franklin D. Roosevelt Veterans Hospital and making the very next left onto Dutch St. This road runs right into the park and down to the launch ramp. The ramp is cement, four boats wide, well maintained, has good parking accommodations and is free. It's good at low tide, which is extremely important, believe me.

Running south down to Croton Point from the launch ramp is no empty trip. Try Furnace Brook and other small creeks and marsh entrances. I have taken fish at Oscawana St. Park and at the abutments for the Croton North Railroad Station and just around the Croton Yacht Club.

Just north of George's Island Park is the mouth of Lake Meahoah. I have taken fish there and around the yacht clubs in this area. Some areas have sunken and decaying barges which sometimes hold fish. This area seems better when the water has warmed up and the fish are hitting plugs.

For a better look at the area, get the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's navigational chart #12343. It can be obtained at most of the marinas and yacht clubs which abound along the river, or ordered from any local marine store. I'm sure it will help you find many more fish producing areas than the ones I have already mentioned.

HEMPSTEAD LAKE: A POTENTIAL WINNER

by Carl Buxbaum

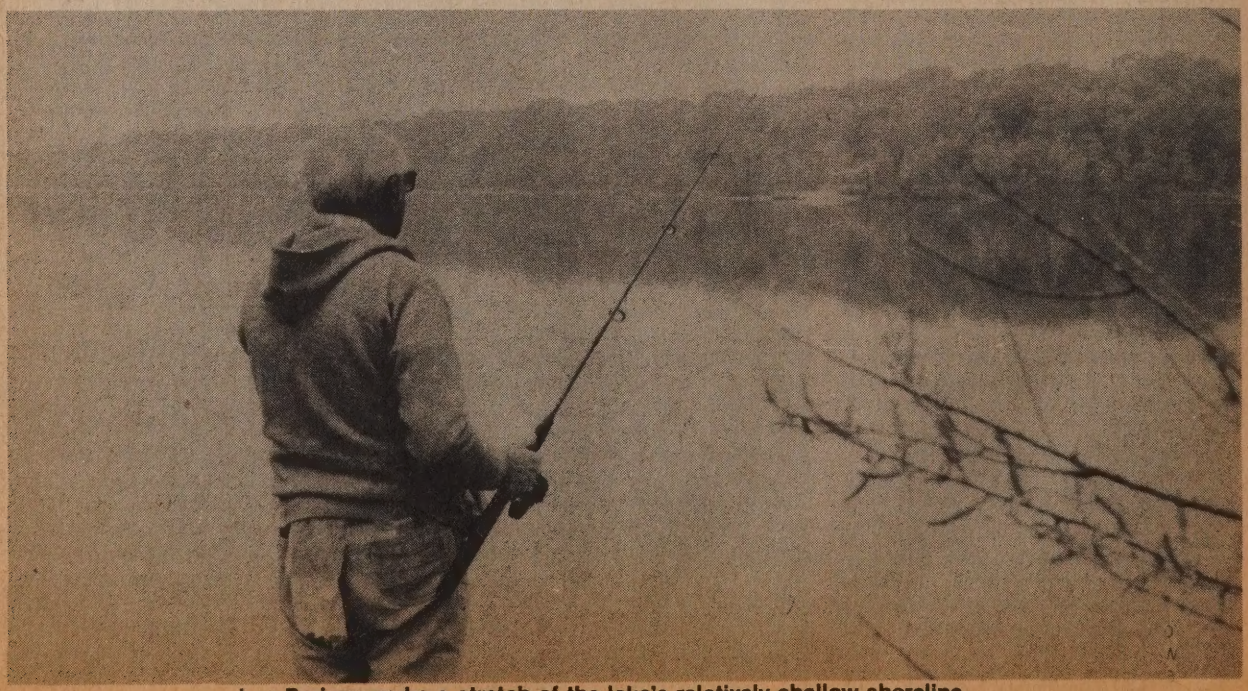
Set amidst a populous piece of suburbia, Hempstead Lake never fails to produce some surprises for those who know her.

Have you ever noticed that every so often a good sized fish is taken from a body of water known for poor fishing? Hempstead Lake is that kind of place. Years ago it had a fine reputation as a largemouth bass haven. But, more recently, fishing success has been meager. Nonetheless, some good sized largemouths and pickerel continue to survive there. If it is close to home, this lake is worth a try when an angler cannot get away to more promising territory.

I have come to know Hempstead Lake fairly well. It is about a mile from my home. I see it from the car on the way to and from work and often stop for a walk along its shores—a treatment for cabin fever during the off season. Sometimes a pheasant or two is flushed. Rabbits freeze in my path before darting off. Egrets and, on occasion, herons forage in the shallows at the north end. Ducks usually sit on the surface at the deeper south end. I enjoy these refreshing moments. But I hate how other human visitors have disturbed this outdoorsman's oasis in the midst of a populous suburb. The water's edge is dotted with rusting, fading beer cans and broken bottles. Styrofoam cups and plastic bags have been deposited on the windward shores. Wire receptacles, placed by park authorities to contain this refuse, sit in two feet of water where they have been hurled by exuberant barbarians. Still, there are few other places a suburban resident can flush a pheasant five minutes from home.

With regard to fishing, Hempstead Lake has other deficits. Although a former New York City reservoir, the water quality of the lake has been seriously harmed by rain runoff which deposited a variety of chemicals typically present on suburban lawns, streets, and roads. Only the hardiest of fish can thrive under such conditions. While modern storm sewers have reduced the amount of runoff conveyed contaminants, they have also reduced the volume of water that fed the lake under more natural circumstances. The water level, therefore, fluctuates dramatically. During droughts it drops precipitously, exposing to the air what might have been excellent spawning habitat. A couple of years ago about a third of the lake's 133 acres became a flourishing meadow after a prolonged dry spell. Last year the melt of a heavy winter snowstorm and a wet spring combined to flood that meadow. An excellent spawning zone resulted. Perhaps the fish took advantage of the opportunity to produce at least one good year class. Time will tell. In general, the water is shallow, only eight or nine feet at its greatest depth. There is simply no fish attracting structure. So there are no obvious hotspots worthy of concentrated fishing effort.

Given this situation, why should anyone bother fishing this body of water? First, it is close to home for an extraordinarily large number of anglers. For them, it can be fished in short stints: after work or at times when family obligations prevent devoting the whole day to fishing. Second, it is very accessible. Hempstead Lake can be seen by looking south between exists 18 and 19 on the



Leo Pariser works a stretch of the lake's relatively shallow shoreline.

Southern State Parkway. Leaving the parkway at exit 18 puts the fisherman in Hempstead Lake State Park, where there is ample parking. It is only a short walk to the west shore. Exit 19 south leads to a parking field maintained by the Village of Rockville Centre, only a few steps to the fishing access site on the eastern shore. A third advantage is that fishing is relaxed. Boats are prohibited, so there are none to be loaded, unloaded, and launched. Since fishing will be done by walking the shore and by wading, only a minimal amount of tackle requires preparation and carrying. The fourth, and perhaps most important attraction, is that the lake opens for fishing on the first Saturday in May—coinciding with the opening of the pickerel season. There is still a month to go for the Long Island bass season to open and trout fishing requires more travel for many anglers.

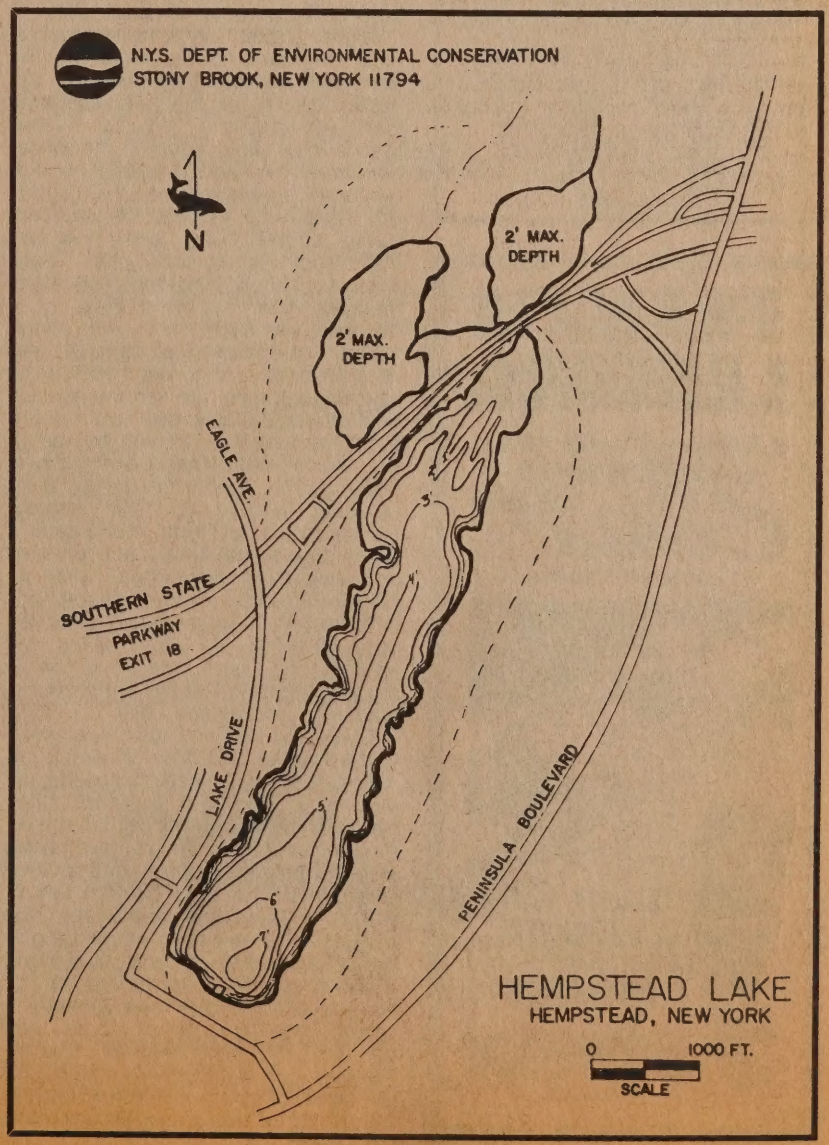
Chain pickerel seem to be the predominant species of game fish in Hempstead Lake. Most are small—10 to 14 inchers. However, I have managed to land some husky ones each season. These have ranged from 16 to 21 inches. The truth is, though, that the larger ones seem to be declining in number. I have not seen any over 20 inches in a couple of years. Although pickerel are delicious to eat, I personally find it too much trouble to fillet them in a manner that eliminates the risk of choking on their profuse, near invisible "Y"-shaped bones. So, I release them all unharmed, removing the hooks with a forceps to avoid the needle sharp teeth. Some fishermen use wire leaders to prevent break-offs, but you will get more strikes with six pound monofilament tied directly to the lure. The teeth of pickerel are fairly well spaced, and the line seems to find those spaces rather than being bitten through. It does, however, pay to cut back a few inches of line after landing one of these critters.

The lake's largemouth bass population is small. The ones caught, though, are beefy. There seem to be no largemouths under 13 or 14 inches long. This circumstance is probably testimony to recent spawning failure and the vulnerability of young bass to predation from birds and other fish, in the absence of protective cover. Nevertheless, it is not unusual for fishermen who regularly visit this body of water to land a fair number of 2 to 3½ pounders.

Watching garden worm fishermen along the shores quickly reveals that the lake is dominated by huge numbers of stunted yellow perch (3 to 5 inchers), postage stamp sized pumkinseeds, tiny bullheads, and big, hefty carp. It is thought that competition for food and territory with these species may be harming the game fish population. To reduce the number of these competitors, the Deparment of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has twice stocked the lake with tiger muskellunge as a supplementary

(Continued on next page.)

A 14 inch, post-spawn largemouth just prior to being released. The Mepps white and black Comet Spinner is among the most effective lures on the lake.



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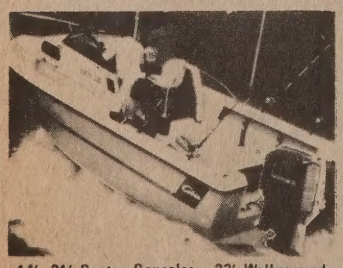
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predator. The DEC released a survey this past fall, however, reporting that the tiger muskies failed to thrive because of unfavorable conditions. What a pity. These fish would have provided great sport.

I suspect that the DEC survey may be overly pessimistic. I caught a 20 inch tiger muskie in late May, 1981. After a couple of hours walking and casting the entire east shore with no action, I tied on a 1/8 ounce Panther Martin spinner planning to fool with some little yellow perch, as I worked my way back to the parking field. Thoroughly discouraged when not even the perch could be found, I was startled by a firm, weighty tug on the line setting my light spinning rod into a deep bend. The fish was burrowing down with powerful lunges that threatened the integrity of my knot tying skill and too well used six pound line. It was much stronger than a pickerel, but changed direction too often to be a bass. When finally beached, it looked like an unusually stout, muscular pickerel. But where were the pickerel's distinctive markings? It seemed too greyish and brown. By process of elimination, I thought it must be a tiger muskie. After memorizing its features, the fish was released. Checking the illustrations in the International Game Fish Association's "World Record Book" later confirmed the identification. Now, one fish is hardly enough evidence to question the DEC report. But I continue to hear of outsized, husky pickerel being taken now and then from Hempstead Lake. These are very likely misidentified tiger muskies. Last spring I saw, at a distance, a fisherman with what looked like one of these gems. It was on a stringer tied to his belt. As he saw me approach, the fish was quickly hustled into a plastic bag, and I heard the complaint that nothing but perch seemed to live in the lake any more. Lacking the authority of a game warden, I could do little without getting into a fist fight. In any case, I am willing to bet that I encountered an unsporting fisherman with an illegal short tiger muskie. Keeper size is 30 inches. I am probably a foolish optimist, that is what keeps me fishing; but there must be a few of these brutes still lurking in the murky waters of Hempstead Lake.

Given the fact that each species of game fish in this lake is scarce, it seems less than wise to specifically fish for a particular favorite. Also, because there is very little fish attracting structure, there are few places where it pays to make many repeated casts. The trick is to explore lots of water in the time available. The angler will be on foot—so trolling is out. When selecting lures, therefore, it is best to choose those that can be worked quickly and are known to appeal equally well to bass and pickerel. Mepps, Panther Martin, Rooster Tail, or other in-line spinners are suitable for this fishing situation. These lures have regularly taken bass, pickerel, and perch as well as my only tiger muskie. Even a five pound carp once fell victim to a tiny gold-colored spinner of mine. Plugs, particularly the swimming minnow type, work; but for some reason, only rarely. Plastic worming is simply too slow a method for covering lots of water, and when worked quickly, worms are remarkably unproductive. A fair number of bass have been taken on big spinnerbaits, either skirted or curly tailed, but you will probably be passing up a few pickerel, if you stick with these beyond special occasions. Later in the season, Hempstead Lake sometimes gets choked with algae, and only surface plugs can be retrieved without being immediately draped with green goo. Otherwise the fisherman will generally do best with the Mepps type spinners.

Winter storms usually leave tree branches in the water a few feet from shore, providing some temporary structure which may hold a largemouth or two. It is worth trying a large spinnerbait at such spots. After the first warm, clear weekend of June, this needed cover is gone. Hordes of so-called "anglers" have snagged their hooks in these deadfalls over that weekend and winched them ashore with surf rods and 50 pound monofilament. Get there before this assault in the lake and you have a good shot at some nice fish.

Wind-driven floating debris, pocketed in the corners of coves, offers a similar early season opportunity. It is hardly romantic fishing. Just make believe the paper cups and MacDonald's Quarter Pounder containers are lily pads. The flotsam is tight to shore. It is, therefore, complicated to properly present a lure without snagging shore line brush or spooking fish. Quietly wade a safe distance from the target and make the cast parallel to shore. One day I waded in a bit further than usual in order to cast a skirted spinnerbait back toward a substantial accumulation of junk. Three casts along the edges of this canopy failed to produce. Finally, I dropped the lure right through a dozen or so styrofoam cups bobbing in a few inches of water. The resulting commotion should have driven any respectable fish across the lake. Instead, the spinnerbait came crashing right back through the cups in the jaws of a 3½ pound largemouth.

Last season the high water level made another form of fish holding cover available: flooded grass. I tried fishing the grass for two reasons. First, it appealed to my preference fo nature over styrofoam, but more important is what occurred on my first approach. There was rustling and splashing. The water was only a few inches deep. Probably birds or turtles, maybe even snakes or rats—I thought. Then it happened again, where I could see the water through the grass. Fish were scurrying out of my shadow. Pickerel. The grass was alive with pickerel. But it was too

thick to fish. Weedless lures were no help because the line itself kept fouling in the greenery. Retreating to the edge of the grass line, where it fell off to deeper water, I found that pickerel and an occasional bass could be taken at regular intervals. This sort of fishing held until a summer dry spell dropped the water level again, and the fish seemed to disperse. It looks as if there will be flooded grass again this spring. Try casting parallel to the grass line and retrieve a Mepps type spinner within a few inches of the edge. The fish can be seen darting out of the grass to grab the lure.

Once the spring cover is gone or abandoned by the fish, one spot seems as good as another to the fisherman working along the shore—with a major exception. The mouths of coves appear to be more productive than other areas. While most fishermen congregate on points of land, casting toward the lake's center, and a few others work the inner reaches of the coves, greater success can be had by casting across the mouths of coves from their boundary setting points. Probably over half the fish I have caught in Hempstead Lake, both bass and pickerel, were taken from these spots.

Obvious to the reader by now is the fact that I care a great deal about Hempstead Lake but am very bothered by what has happened to it as a result of both natural events and human intrusion. This lake can be saved as an angler's oasis in the suburbs through modern fisheries management techniques and an increase in respect for the environment on the part of all who visit its shores. The first step has been taken in the form of a DEC management plan calling for an improvement of the habitat for fish and a largemouth bass stocking program. Such efforts are expensive and the DEC will be moving gradually rather than dramatically. The initial stage of the plan is to create fish holding cover in the lake by submerging brush structures at various locations. This activity is presently scheduled for the winter of 1984-1985. Shortly thereafter, largemouths will be trapped from a private Long Island pond, where they are overabundant, and transferred to Hempstead Lake. The future of the lake looks somewhat brighter now.

How can fishermen help in the interim? First, although they are not the main culprits, they can carry out their own litter. Second, they can respect the special fishing regulations already in place for this lake. Keeper size for largemouths is 15 inches. For pickerel, it is 18 inches. There is a daily creel limit of three each on both species. Third, the angler can go a step further by releasing unharmed all bass and pickerel landed. It might also help to keep for the table all perch, bullheads, carp, and pumpkinseeds which may be caught. In that way, man becomes the supplementary predator.

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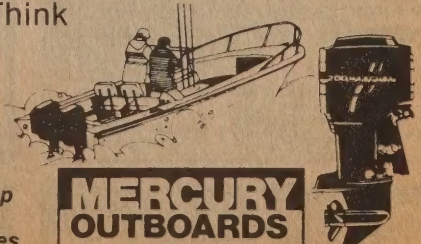

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East End REPORT

with Capt. John DeMaio

Montauk anglers found the fishing around Block Island over the weekend a spotty affair. Finding fish in the same place the next day is very difficult. Picking the right spot can require more luck than skill. Back west, the Peconic has come to life and Gardiners Island is now producing the usual spring run of large flounder.

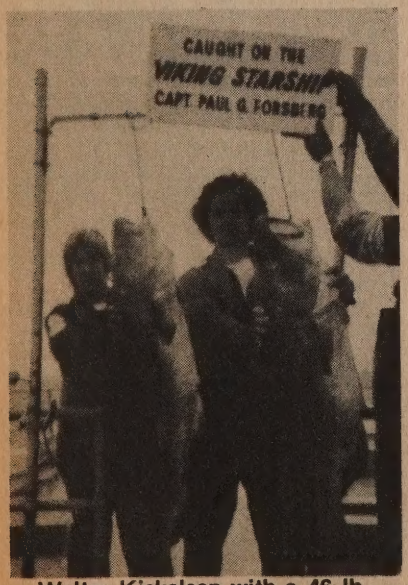
MONTAUK

Capt. Mike Bentivegna of the charter boat **Pronto** reported taking 33 cod up to 20 pounds on clam bait, along with 2 blackfish for John Richy and Carl Jusseu. The scene was Block Island on Saturday.

The **Alyssa Ann**, captained by Bill Ricca, had 47 flounder up to 3 pounds for Bernie and Joe Shultz at Promised Land during the week. On Friday and Saturday he had a total of 68 cod to 20 pounds for his charters.

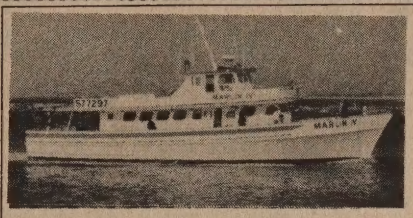
All week long the charter boat **Blue Fin**, averaged 40 to 50 cod a trip, fishing around Block Island. On Saturday Capt. Potts had 25 pollock trolling, and 25 cod to 20 pounds on jigs.

On Saturday, the L & L Construction Company of New Jersey had



Walter Kickelsen with a 46 lb. cod and Billy Vrualek with a 51 pounder. Both were taken on the most recent Georges Bank trip aboard the "Viking Starship." Billy finished the trip with 31 cod and haddock while Walter racked up 22 fish.

MONTAUK POINT



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72 cod aboard the charter boat **King Wayne**. Jeff Lahullier won the pool with a 32 pounder. On Sunday the Springs Brooks Fishing Club caught 45 cod up to 18 pounds.

Capt. Gene Kelly of the **Kellyboat** had 30 cod on Saturday and 50 on Sunday up to 15 pounds.

Aboard the charter boat **Julie III**, Capt. Ron Grandinetti had 57 cod for his party in 90' of water off Block Island.

Friday was my best day on the **Vivienne**. Three anglers totaled 82 codfish up to 15 pounds on jigs and tubes in the shallow waters around Block Island.

Capt. Joe McGrath of the **Nostalgia** stayed late on Saturday to put together a catch of cod for the Mandorana party. The largest fish was 17 pounds.

SOUTH FORK

Chris Salb of **Bayview Marine Fishing Station** in **Sag Harbor** said that flounder fishing has been very good for some and picky for others. One of the better scores on the weekend was made by John Dunka Jr & Sr and Chris Martin. The trio accounted for 80 flatties in the 1-2 pound class fishing off of Caretakers on Saturday's ebb tide. They used worms and mussels. Chris also named South Ferry, Kelly's Point and Mashomack Point as worthwhile flounder spots.

According to **Artie Lach** of the open boat **Wilhelric II**, flounder fishing has improved considerably at Petty's Bight and Gardiners Island. Friday's catch amounted to over 300 fish for 15 anglers. Saturday was a slow pick but Sunday provided the best action of the week with the first real shot of Gardiner's Island action. Sunday afternoon's action at Gardiner's saw 50 fish in the 1½-3½ pound class taken.

Noyac Marina called in to say that "we have the fish, but not enough fishermen." Kent Smith and Don Manger fished west of Jessups and easily caught 20 flounder in the 2 pound class. The flounder preferred mussels over worms.

The word from Tom at **Speck's Bait and Tackle** is that Peconic is coming to life. Roger Koster and his daughter, Lori caught 15 flounder in the 2 pound range, west of Jessups. Also a few mackerel were taken in Peconic. Shinnecock Bay is still yeilding flounder at the Basket and Heddy Creek, but a little slower. Three anglers had 25 flounder at Tobaccolot Bay, up to 2¾ pounds. Promised Land was slower on the weekend.

Capt. Ken of the **Shinnecock** open boat, **Jenny Rose** says fishing is improving in Peconic. Quality fish are being taken in areas such as Nassau Point. On Saturday, Noreen Burke of Kingston, NY won the pool with a 4¾ pound blackfish. Florence Klien-

handler had a 3½ pound flounder. Sounds like it was ladies' day.

According to Charlie at **Corr's Mariner's Cove** in **Hampton Bays**, flounder were very good this weekend, especially at Heady Creek. There were large fish in the Basket area up to 2½ pounds. On Saturday, Noel Langen, John and Ed Palmer took 165 flounder out of Heady Creek, they worked the incoming tide and used mussels and worms. Fish were in the two pound class. There was a report of one weakfish being taken in the canal, but no details were available. Commercial fishermen have been picking small weakfish up in their nets.

South Shore REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

Anglers came out in droves this weekend to take advantage of the gentle hand dealt us by "Mother Nature". Judging by this weeks report, few were disappointed where flounder were concerned and many more had their day made by newly arrived schools of "Boston" mackerel. The first confirmed report of hook and line weakfish escaped us but enough rumors were floating around to suspect at least a yellowfin or two may have fallen to the multitudes. Whatever the case, the finest "official" catches are sure to be a matter of record by next weekend, when many anglers will make their first concerted effort for weaks.

MORICHES BAY & INLET

Flounder fishing in Moriches Bay was as good as the weather for those who caught the tides right. Incoming water played an important role in flounder scores although some good fishing was had on the first part of outgoing. Most of the better action was centered on the flats south of Haven's Point and north of buoys 42 and 43.

Jim Green of **L & M Marine Fishing Station** in **East Moriches** told of John Nepson and Jerry Masterson of the private boat **Cousins II**. On Saturday, the pair put away over 80 flounder in the 1-1½ pound class on the flats north of buoy 42. They used blood and sandworms and chummed with mussel. Also on Saturday, Ronnie Noon, Jack Pierce, Russ Bush and Kevin Shay had a good catch of flounder working the same area.

Gary Grunseich of **Silly Lilly Fishing Station** in **East Moriches** spoke of very good flounder north of 41, 42 and 43 with all of the fish ranging between 1 and 2 pounds. Most boats had catches ranging from 40 to 80 flatties apiece on most days. Some outstanding catches were made as well. On Saturday, there Donnelly clan, Kevin, Tom and Tom Sr., returned with 95 big flounder. Next day, Joe Sander and Richie Montgomery loaded up with 110 flatties.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

From **Capt. Andy's Fishing Station** in **Mastic Beach** came word of a very good week on flounder with chumming being the key to the best scores. Eddie Matejceck named buoys 15, 17 and 20 along with the entire bridge area as being very productive. Nearly all of the fish are keepers with a good number of 1½ to 2 pound fish sprinkled in to the catches. Here, too, incoming tide gets the nod.

The word from **J & J Tackle** in **Patchogue** was that there were plenty of flounder around and many of them are real nice size fish. Paul Graniello told of Bernie Lorentz who confined his fishing to the banks of the Quogue Canal on the weekend. Bernie showed Paul catches of 14 flatties on Saturday and 18 on Sunday but even more impressive was the size of the fish which ranged from 1-2 pounds. Paul had good flounder reports from the Smith Point Bridge area to the east and the buoy 6, West Channel area in Great South Bay. The nice weather also brought an improvement in the action on the local docks. Trout fishing remains good locally and Paul reminded that he will have live killies in stock for next week's pickerel opening.

Working our way west, Dave Canale of **J & R Sports Center** in **Oakdale** asked that we notify customers of the shop's new summer schedule. They will be open 6AM to 8PM on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Hours for Tuesday and Thursday are 8AM to 8PM. In the flounder department, Rich and Isabella Odsen checked in a catch of 2 dozen flatties up to 1¼ pounds taken in West Channel on worms and clam chum Saturday. Good reports also came from Dickerson and Snake Hill Channels and the southeast side of Captree Bridge. A few more small fluke were reported in the State Channel and Al Colban, of the shop relayed word that Friday's haul in the Fire Island Pound Nets yielded 2000 pounds of 8-12 pound weakfish. A few nice trout continue to be taken from Bubbles Falls on the Connetquot in the early AM and after dark.

From **Peppy's Tackle Shop** in **East Islip**, Irene Cioffi reported a busy weekend with plenty of flounder taken and a showing of mackerel as well. Irene weighed a 1½ pound flounder for 12 year old Christine Deutcsh on Sunday. On Saturday, Peter Jakits, aboard his Rainbow Runner II corralled 32 flounder between 1 and 1½ pounds working the south side of West Island.

Speaking from **Smokey's Tackle Shop** in **Bay Shore**, Linda Miller said that everyone caught flounder on the weekend. Good catches was the rule on Saturday with some of the better scores coming from West Channel, Dickerson Channel, and buoy 2. Mackerel made their first solid showing of the season in local waters. On Sunday, Harry Miller and Ken Chapuisat loaded up their skiff Rasberry fishing in 80' of water southwest of Fire Island Inlet. Linda noted that those who chummed their mackerel literally bailed the fish while those without chum just picked away.

Capt. Neil Delanoy of the **Bay Shore** open boat **Casey Lee** said that after some slow floundering around midweek, action was much improved on the weekend. Saturday saw approx. 250 flatties taken while Sunday's fishing was labelled as excellent with over 400 flatties coming aboard. Neil has been concentrating his efforts around West Channel and said the fish range from mediums to a good number of large fish in the 1½ to 2 pound range. Moving water is the key and both worms and clams have been working in the bait department.

Captree Boat Basin was a beehive of activity on the weekend. The State Park's Spring Festival attracted huge crowds and most boats sailed with capacity crowds. Even the fish cooperated with good flounder action the rule on Saturday for most boats. Sunday saw fishing range from fair to good though nearly everyone managed a reasonable number of fish. Big crowds cut down on individual scores but the quality of the fish made up for the lack of numbers.

Capt. Charlie Kennedy of the **Captree** open boat **Capt. Joseph II** said that he had a decent take of fish both days but more important the fish are beginning to make their move to the south side of the bay where fishing activity begins to concentrate between Ocean Beach and the inlet. Some of the best fishing in recent years has occured during May, opposite Clam Pond and Saltaire and Charlie expects the fishing here to open up in the very near future. Charlie called via marine radio as we were going to press to tell us that fares were bailing fish off of Ocean Beach as of 9:30 AM (Monday morning) one fare, Warren Moore already had over 2 dozen flatties in the box.

Capt. Joe DiLiberto of the **Captree** charter boat **Prime Time** said that he worked the north end of Range Channel on Saturday and put together a decent catch for members of the Garden City Ski Club. On Sunday, Joe moved his efforts to the Babylon cut area and racked up a nice catch for a party headed by John Makris from Home Life Insurance Co.

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Capt. Gordon Roman of the open boat **Captree Queen II** spoke of good fishing on Saturday, fair fishing on Sunday with heavy crowds keeping scores down to half a dozen fish per man and a fast start on Monday. He, too, reached us at the last minute via the marine radio to tell of hot fishing Monday AM. He found the fish in West Channel. Also noting the movement of fish to the south side of the bay, Gordon looks to Clam Pond and Saltaire to be ripe by the weekend.

Mackerel were the target for fares aboard Capt. Speedy Hubert's **Speedy VI** since the middle of last week. Speedy reported catches of 40-50 per man on Sunday with fish ranging between ½ on up to 3 pounds. Most of his fishing has been at Cholera, a one hour, 20 minute run from the dock. Good numbers of fish have been reported just south of F.I. Inlet in recent days which should eliminate any long runs for fish by this weekend.

Capt. George Tweedy of the **Captree** open boat **Capt. Scotty 3** called flounder fishing decent with catches of 10-15 per man about average. Monday was an excellent day with catches of 30-40 a man the norm. George has been working between West Island and Sailor's Haven with most of the fish falling into the 1-1¼ pound class. Plenty of herring and mackerel being taken on afternoon mackerel trips.

Fred Austin of **Augie's Tackle Shop** in **Babylon** called it a very good flounder weekend with some private boats doing a real nice job on the fish. Fred also weighed some nice flatties. Among them were a pair of 2.2 pounders taken by youngsters Tom Kelly and Elsie Poucel. Both fish tied for first place in the Babylon Tuna Club's weekend flounder derby. Hi-hook on the weekend may have been Jay Brander and Chick McGraw of the Escape Hatch. On Saturday, the pair bailed 150 flounder in the Babylon Cut. Another pair of impressive flounder was taken by young Luke Lorenzetti and Michelle LaFranca. Both checked in 2 pound flatties. Fred told of reports of mackerel in 65' of water due south of the inlet. He also weighed several blackfish in the 4 pound range in recent days.

Both the open boat **Miss Babylon** and the **Pooka v** reported good flounder catches this week and weekend. Both boats concentrated their efforts in the state channel where nice size fish predominated.

Mike Andreani of **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle** said that private boatmen who chummed in 80' of water SE of Fire Island Saturday and Sunday loaded up with mackerel to 3 pounds. Flounder received the biggest play in the area with numerous good scores checked in by customers. Mike looked over a catch of 50 flatties to 2½ pounds made in Dickerson Channel by Sal and Ed Lesse and Tom and Anthony Jacobellis. Joe Uss along

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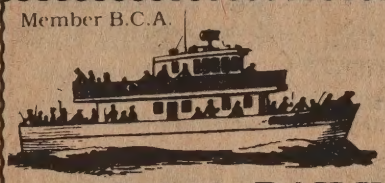

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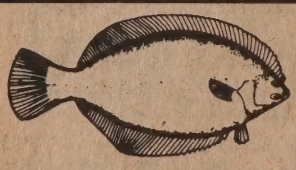
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with Dan Gainey treated Joe's 8 year old son Ken and 5 year old son Doug to a day of flounder fishing south of Bergen Point. Young Doug led the way with 18 flatties. Another youngster, 6 year old Devon Soldano fished with his dad Vinnie and Dave Levy. He did the bulk of the damage in a 30 fish catch made in 6' of water near buoy 5, Dickerson Channel.

Ralph Angelillo from **Z Crab Tackle** in **Copiague** reported a catch of 36 cod from 7 to 15 pounds for Al Smith and Bill Miller aboard the Gannet on Friday. They fished a local wreck. On Friday, George Nester and Chris Greenberg showed Ralph 37 flounder in the 1-1½ pound class taken at Squaw Island. Jim Braun of the **Three Sons** did it again this week with over 300 flounder taken from the private hole somewhere opposite Lindenhurst. Tom Kelly and his son Brendon worked the Babylon Cut on Saturday to the impressive tune of 80 flounder to 2 pounds. Young Paul Griffin went no further than the Amityville Town Dock to put away 15 big flounder. Ralph, who looked over the catch said that all ranged between 1 and 1½ pounds. In the unconfirmed weakfish catch department, Ralph heard rumblings of a Kismet resident taking 9 weaks in the 4-5 pound range on the back side of west island. Next weekend should see the first confirmed catches of yellowfins.

West End REPORT
with Stu Miller

With the weather and water warming, flounder have picked up tremendously, blackfish have begun their act and mackerel have now swum within fairly easy striking distance of our local south shore ports.

WEST END BAYS/ JONE'S INLET

The word from **Capt. Eddie's Fishing Station in Seaford** is that his rental skiifs for the most part have been returning with 30 to 40 good flatties per skiff with better anglers doing 60 to 80 good fish. Joe and Rocky of Elmont scored with 80 on outgoing water using bloodworms and plenty of chum. Hottest areas were Massapequa Cove and buoy 14 at 4 Corners. Squaw hasn't been exciting. There have been reports of blackfish at the 2nd and 3rd Wantagh bridges on fiddler and green crab.

At **Lon Wanser's Tackle** we heard of excellent flounder fishing this past

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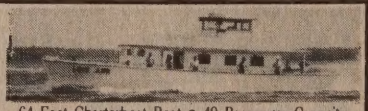

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week. Tony Santoriello fishing the incoming on Saturday had 75 keeper flounder, 20 of which were over 2 lbs. taken on the Merrick Flats on worm and mussel and a lot of chum. Lon said also hot for the week was Squa and West Islands, Massapequ Cove and the 3rd Wantagh. Blackfish at the Meadowbrook Bridge, T and Rota Wrecks in good numbers and good sizes. The shop expects to have fiddlers in for the weekend.

A call from **Pops Fishing Station** advised fishing improved dramatically over the weekend with bigger fish being taken on the flats. Huntington Sinker Bouncers Fishing Club had several boats out this weekend, with high hook being the Bianco party on Saturday with 100 flounder up to 2¼ lbs. taken in Massapequa Cove. Red Duenger filled a 5 gallon pail full at Squaw island using worms and a lot of mussel chum. John also told of many signs of summer fish such as small sea bass and porgies scattered around.

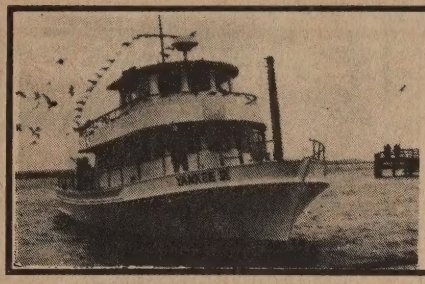
From **Merrick Tackle** in **Bellmore** came word of mackerel at Cholera on Sunday. Customers have been coming in right through Sunday with tales of good flounder catches in F.I. Inlet and in the local Merrick Bay spots.

From **Nick's Fishing Station in Merrick** George advised that his rental skiffs are catching anywhere from 8 to 40 good flounder per skiff depending upon the skills and the luck and the volume of chum put on the bottom by the anglers aboard. Carl Valldieck and Ron Munson totaled 51 flatties working Broad Creek along the houses. Mussels worked best and heavy chumming was a must. Fish averaged a pound and there virtually no throwbacks.

Moving out to the boats out of **Freeport** a call from the **Capt. Lou Fleet** told of a pretty good flounder week and weekend. On the full day boat, Monday saw Tom Anitto of Oceanside with 46 flounder while Joe Dwyer of Rockville Centre has 63. On Tuesday six fares totalled roughly 300 good fish and on Wednesday, Dr. Stan Worneck of Great Neck had 49. Seventy-three flounder was the count for Charlie Martin on Friday and on Saturday Ed Kawolski was high hook with 43. The half day boat the **CL V** has also been doing very well with flounder, high hooks being in the 20s every day. Wednesday's PM trip saw Young Kim with 28 good fish.

Ronnie "Bunzy" Bauer at **Hudson Point Fishing Station** told of the good catches of mackerel on Sunday in 80' of water south of the inlet. Blackfishing has started nicely at the bridges on green crabs as evidenced by a 10 lber taken at the Meadowbrook early in the Week by Glen Keller who also had a lot of blacks in the 6-7 lb. range. Joe Masone on his boat Debra rang the bell with 98 cod fishing the Columbra wreck in 180' of water on clams. This big score on Friday was helped out by Paul Stern's 38 fish and Emil Spena with his 48 lber. Ronnie says there are lots of

CAPTREE



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flounder around with hot areas being Middle Bay, the flats, Swift Creek north of the houses, Merrick Bay, Neds Creek and Mill Creek. Fish are hitting worms, clam and mussel but chumming is a necessity.

A call from Capt. Pat of the **Lady J III** told of Tuesday's trip for Bruce Anderson and his cub scout group which had a good pick of flounder in Garretts Lead and Reynolds Channel. Saturday's trip for First Jersey Security hoisted macks 30 miles south of Jones Inlet with fish in the 2 lb. category.

We heard from the charter boat **Capt. Gary II** regarding Sunday's trip for Happy Hooker Fishing Club which had a decent catch of flatties in Swift Creek, Reynold and a bit to the west. Pool Honors went to Fuzz Reinheiner with a 2¼ lber., while Larry Levine was high hook with 16 flatties. Joining in the action was brand new member of the club Joe Castalane.

A call from Captain Dennis of the charter boat **Corsair** told of Saturday's trip for Factory Mutual working Reynolds Channel with lots of drops resulting in a good catch with the boat working the area around the Long Beach Bridge. Dennis Van Zile was high hook and the pool was taken by Joe Stasney. Most of the fish were medium size and they were hitting on both tides.

From the **Starstream II** which is now mackerel fishing, came word of a good catch Saturday south of Jones at the Mud Hole, with a good solid catch on Sunday at Cholera, just a scant seven miles off the beach. Fares enjoyed a good solid couple of hours in the AM with additional shots of fish in the PM. Good fishermen who worked hard ended up with 3/4-full burlap bags and poor or lazy anglers still managed 12 to 25 fish, fish running up to 3 lbs.

A call from the **Captain Al** who is now mackerel fishing 6AM daily told of an excellent catch Friday and fair fishing Saturday and Sunday. The main body of fish is still moving into the area said Al and things can only get better.

From Capt. Andy Chilemi of the **Capt. Andy Fleet** we learned that this boats had very good floundering this week and there were plenty of fish around. Local drops are the name of the game in the flats, backwaters, etc. Swift Creek was one hotspot said the skipper. A lot of throwbacks but a lot of good fish as well. Friday a 3 lber. was caught with keepers averaging 3/4 to 1½ lbs. Andy was also happy to be able to state that most fares are returnin the small fish to the water.

A call from the charter boat **Mickey II** told of Easter Sunday's charter for the Valley Stream Fishing Club which had an excellent flounder catch with fish up to 2 lbs. in Reynolds and Merrick Bay. This Saturday's charter for Enterprise Press of NYC did its best in Reynolds at the school and in Merrick Bay with heavy chumming. Mike Rossi was high hook with 15 flounder to 1½ lbs. while the pool was

taken by Jean Alcorn with a 1¾ lber.

From the **Freeport Boatmens Association** also came word of a big upswing in the flounder catches Sunday which resulted in superb angling. Hotspots were the lower part of Garretts Lead and all throughout Reynolds. Lots of chum was the key. The **Super Spray II** has been steadily picking away at flounder on its 2 trip a day schedule but will begin mackerel fishing Thursday of this week on the same 2 trip a day. See ad for exact hours.

Meanwhile in nearby Point Lookout **Ed's Fishing Station** noted that blackfish really showed their stuff Sunday. One customer had exactly 50 blackfish at the Meadowbrook Sunday with the biggest weighing 7 lbs. 6 oz. with 13 other fish being in the 5 lb. class, all on green crabs and fiddlers. The party that gathered this catch was Gary and Rosemary Cox with friends Lucy and Ray all of Ozone Park on incoming tide. John Eisenhet and Mark Palermo fishing the Meadowbrook Saturday had 40 blacks up to 4¾ lbs. Ralph and Vinnie Susco along with Vinnie and Fred Seeger totalled 65 good keeper flounder on worm and mussel bait and on plenty of chum at buoys 17, 18 and 20 in Reynolds on the north side. Mike and Sunnie Holmes along with Mario Di Christina all of Bay Ridge totalled 85 flounder fishing the flats Saturday on worms and mussels. It was a great week said Marilyn when the wind was not blowing.

From the **Capt. Bill** we learned that on Wed. Tom O'Toole of east Meadow had 20 flounder, while Tomk Biardi of Hempstead was happy with 15. Thursday saw Steve Mcgown of Uniondale with 20. Friday, Spencer Thomas hoisted 25 good fish along with the pool winner. Skip Notingcamp bailed 20 flatties to 1½ lbs. and on Saturday, Freeport angler Tom Frame pulled up 25 flounder to 1¾ lbs. Sunday morning was slow for keepers but better in the PM with bigger fish mixed with blackfish to 4½ lbs.

Captain Ron of the **Miss Point Lookout** advised that the weekday fishing this week was excellent with good numbers being caught. High hooks were in the 20s and 30s in the early week. Wednesday AM Howard Holse hoisted 20 while in the PM Teddi DiGiovanni was happy with 23 fish plus the pool winner. Thursday PM saw Tony Velani with 42 fish and Teddi back again for 24 more. Thirty-five was the score for Drew Heitner while 5 year old Stephen Bonansinga took the pool, his first. Things slowed a bit for the weekend with the oncoming moon. Saturday saw Al Aduhan with a 2 lb. pool fish. Mike Whalen also had a pool winner on the weekend and Val Sherer had 15 flatteis. On Sunday Val was back to pull in a 2 lb. pool winner.

Aboard the charter boat **Marie III** Saturday's trip for the New York Poer Authority worked Reynolds and Garretts Lead and vicinity for a good flounder catch. Jim Episcsotia took

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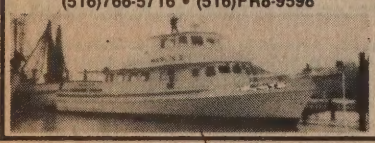

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the pool with a 2 lber. Jim Rhodes was high hook and fish averaged 10-20 a man with mussels best followed by worms. Sunday's charter for the Hickvsille Fire Department had the pool taken by Bill Kelly with a 1¾ lb. flattie and high hook honors going to Bill Luft. Action was super , but a lot of little fish moved in. Just one drop was necessary for the whole day. Catches were 15-30 keepers a man, with an equal number of throw-backs. A few blacks to 2½ lbs. were also taken on worm, clam and mussel. The boat still has a few open weekday mackerel dates.

The word from **Scotty's Fishing Station** is of lots of flounder being caught west of the loop bridge in the flats, fishing averaging 1 to 2 lbs., with mixed size blackfish being taken at the bridges on fiddlers in decent numbers. The flounder are biting their best in the flats and are continuing to munch mussels and worms. Go heavy on the chum.

Out of **Island Park**, Captain Clem of the **Commodore** advised that fishing was really super all week on the flatties with catches averaging 20 fish a man or better with a lot of 1½ lbers. being caught. Pools are consistently going to 2 lbers and better. The weekend was very good with Garretts Lead, buoy 16 and 18 in Reynolds and some of the back creeks being hot. Fish have been biting best at different stages of the tide all week, becoming very unpredictable. However, outgoing seemed to be steadier.

Charlie at **Beckmann's Tackle in Lynbrook** told of Kevin McMann and Tom Gough of Rockville Centre fishing on their boat Regner Saturday and catching at the Meadowbrook Bridge catching 35 blackfish to 5 lbs. on fiddlers. Very good flounder catches being made in BaLdwin Bay and off the cement block in Reynolds. Heavy chumming is a MUST.

A call from **Long Beach Sports Marina** told of an upswing in flounder activity Thursday through Sunday with the best action just north of buoy 3, buoys 5 and 9. On Saturday and Sunday the 12 rentals that went out each day averaged 20 to 30 fish per skiff in these areas. Chum is a must with sand and blood worms as hook bait. Seventy-five flounder was the count for Bob Schmidt and Mike Kassella. They worked buoy 3 Saturday with fish averaging 1 lb. and topping out at 2 lbs. The last three hours of incoming were best. Some very nice blackfish at the Atlantic Beach Bridge on green crabs.

Out of **Atlantic Beach** Captain Ronnie Lepper of the charter boat **Kim** had his last spring flounder trip Saturday with 60 keepers flipped over the rail by noon. Ronnie is now concentrating on mackerel charters.

From **Reynolds Reef Fishing Station** came word of the Atlantic Beach Rod and Gun Club flounder tournament held over the weekend. With 40 boats fishing, Scott Weiss took 1st place with a 2.10 lb. fish; Dave Brody, 2nd place, 2.1 lb. flounder and Art

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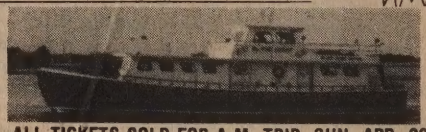

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Riemer, 3rd place, with 1.12 lb. fish. Al says flounder are all over the place with hotspots being Middle Bay, Magnolia Pier, Garretts Lead and Reynold Channel from boats or dock. Most fish are 1 lb. and up. Some blacks at the Atlantic Beach Bridge and small blacks to 3 lbs. from Beach 9 to 20th Street off the jetties. A few macks at the mouth of Debs and at the Steel wreck.

NEW YORK BIGHT

From **Skippy's Bait and Tackle** we learned of a lot of flounder in the trestle area right through the weekend. 98 flatties was the score aboard the Hawaiian Punch for Stan Kaplan and crew. Lots of 2 lbers. and a 3 lber. were included. Hotspots were West Bay at the trestle, Duck Pt, Reynolds and Broad Channels and buoy 5. Fish seem to be all over the place. Blackfishing seems to be starting nicely at the bridges and a lot of whiting have been brought up by draggers working in 25' of water.

Out of SheepsheaD Bay, Captain Butch of the **Zephyr** told of excellent floundering during the week working just outside Sandy Hook with many fares having 40-50 keepers up to 2 lbs. Friday saw solid catches of flounder again and also a few ling caught. Saturday lots of ling were mixed in with flounder catches averaging 10 to 15 a man. Sunday's catches were bursting with ling plus good flounder catches. High hook was 35 flounder for Mike, a regular, who also had 30 lbs. of ling fillets by day's end. Flounder average 1½ to 2¼ lbs.

Aboard the **Pilot II**, the area's blackfish specialists, the skipper reported very good blackfishing with specimens to 11¾ lbs. This whopper was decked by Harvey Sailer at midweek off the Jersey Coast. Catches are including a few ling, cod and pollock. Blackfish are averaging 1 to 6 lbs. on greenies and clam.

Neil at **Stella Maris Bait and Tackle** told of lots of flounder being caught off Staten Island and lots of ling, sme area. Manhattan Beach has been another hotspot for flounder and ling. Solid catches of mackerel at Cholera on Sunday.

Over in Staten Island, Kevin at **Santo's Sport Shop** said the action is mostly flounder for both boat fishermen and surf casters. Anglers afloat have been doing it off the old home dock, buoy 14, Annandale and off Great Kills Park. Blackfishing is starting around the lights. Some bass in the surf to 13 lbs. at Great Kills Beach, Oakwood and New Dorp on worms from late PM to early evening.

North Shore REPORT with Marty Carrell

Fine warm weather moved Sound waters up a few degrees into the upper 40s over the weekend and gave flounder anglers a shot at fish in the deeper outside areas. Results were mixed, but improving fishing was the norm. Rumors of a few hook and line mackerel were heard and the first few blackfish were also reported.

WESTERN SOUND

Larry at **John's Gun** in New Rochelle said that Glen Island was now pretty good and that flounder sizes were up in the Mamaroneck area. Fish to 1½ lbs. had been weighed.

John DiCuffa at **Jack's Bait** on City Island said there were lots of flounder in the lagoon as well as off Harts Island and the CBS Tower. Best sizes were 1-1½ pounds. A few blackfish were mentioned off the City Island Bridge and Execution Light with numbers in local lobster pots.

Dave Watt at the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** saw one good catch of small blackfish off Morgan's jetty early on Saturday. Dosoris Pond was better for flounder than the Sound outside Glen Cove, but Cold Spring Harbor and Oyster Bay were better than the Glen Cove Zone.

Joe Ferrara of the **Sea King** called to say that Sunday's fishing in 14-22 feet of water off Northport, Oyster Bay, Bayville, and Lloyds was somewhat better than Saturday's pick. Outside Bayville, the water temperature was around 48 degrees F. Among the other boats of the City Island fleet, Pete Anderson of the **North Star** had 12-30 per fare over the weekend from the Huntington and Bayville areas while Dom Cerbone of the **Apache** had similar results from City Island, Bayville, and Lloyds. It was certainly no slaughter, but the latter boat made 50 to 60 fish per drop in 10-25 feet of water with 1/2 to 1½ lb. fish tight to the beach. All boats had a few blackfish to 3 lbs. each day.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

Four Winds in Huntington Station said small craft were finally working outside in the Crab Meadow area and had mixed sizes of flounder up to 1½ lbs. Half the fish were keepers. Sandworms are best bait and chumming

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with mussels is desirable. Bob Cedar at **Huntington Prop** suggested the Makama area and the golf course as well in 10-15 feet of water. There was a report of mackerel off the Lilco platform around Centerport.

Tom Bowman at **Bowman's** in Northport told us that the area was "saturated with flounder." The town dock was declining and fish were only small to medium sized in the bay and harbor, but Morgan's, Eaton's Neck, and the mussel beds around Crab Meadow were the places to go. Fishing was tide dependent and it's wise to try moving tides around high water.

John at **Caraftis Fishing Station in Port Jefferson** mentioned some large flatfish off White Beach with small flounder in the harbor. An average of 20 per boat in the jumbo range, 1½ to 2½ lbs., wasa the norm outside on Saturday afternoon's high water. Mackerel were caught on Saturday off Buoy 11.

Stan at **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** suggested Rocky Point to Herrick's on outgoing water and detailed some of the local catches for us. John and Bob Jaszcar had 7 trout from Yaphank Lake and Billy Crown had the first two blackfish from the warm water discharge. Lewis Bosso had 25 flounder to 3 lbs. in 6 feet of water off Hallock's Beach. With a party of two anglers, Pete Camilleri scored a week ago off the Shoreham Power Plant some 300 ft. off the beach. Their best fish weighed 3¼ lbs.

Packy Collins of the **Ever Ready** said that fishing tended to be picky over the weekend but that the outside fish were larger on Sunday off going east from Crab Meadow. Billy Collins had been working around Eaton's and Lloyd's as well. Catches ran around 12-18 per fare on Saturday and less than a dozen per fare on Sunday. Pods of mackerel have been duly noted in local tide slicks. All tickets have been sold for next Sunday's trip according to Packy.

NORTH FORK

The Caraftis family at the **Mattituck Fishing Station** is happy with excellent flounder fishing on large fish on both sides of Mattituck Inlet. Catches to 20 per rod have been noted and fish up to 3½ lbs. were weighed last week. The first blackfish of the season went 6 lbs. The **Mattituck Inlet Fishing Station** had 6 boats pull more than 20 large flatties per boat on Saturday. Drifting tended to be quite productive.

Captain Marty's in New Suffolk saw a couple of macs on Saturday along with a 5¾ lb. tautog and the best flounder of the day at 2½ pounds. Sal Loria told us that the morning and afternoons were most productive off Nassau Point and the South Race.

Warren's in Aquebogue informs that mackerel are strictly hit and miss and that the better flounder action

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . –0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." –0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	10:05	10:15	10:55	11:10	10:35	10:40	11:40	11:45	12:50	1:25	1:05	1:35	10:10	10:25	5/3
FRI.	10:50	11:00	11:40	11:55	11:20	11:25	—	12:30	1:30	2:05	1:45	2:20	10:55	11:10	5/4
SAT.	11:40	11:50	—	12:45	—	12:20	12:30	1:20	2:15	2:55	2:30	3:10	11:45	12:00	5/5
SUN.	—	12:40	12:45	1:15	12:20	1:20	1:20	2:15	3:05	3:50	3:20	4:00	—	12:40	5/6
MON.	12:50	1:40	1:40	2:15	1:25	2:20	2:20	3:20	4:05	4:50	4:20	5:00	1:00	1:40	5/7
TUES.	1:50	2:45	2:40	3:25	2:25	3:20	3:30	4:25	5:05	6:00	5:25	6:05	2:05	2:45	5/8
WED.	3:00	3:50	3:50	4:30	3:35	4:25	4:45	5:30	6:15	7:15	6:30	7:10	3:10	3:45	5/9
THURS.	4:05	4:55	4:55	5:35	4:45	5:30	5:50	6:25	7:40	8:30	7:35	8:10	4:10	4:45	5/10

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	–0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 48
Long Branch	–0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	–0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	–0 12
Seaside Park	–0 33
Mantoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	–0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	–0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	–0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	–0 02
Rehobeth Beach	–0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	–0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	–0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	–0 38
Democrat Point	–0 38
Coast Guard Station	–0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	–0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	–0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	–0 20
Truman Beach	–0 42
Falkner Island	–0 12
Sachem Head	–0 10
Branford Harbor	–0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	–0 08
Milford Harbor	–0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	–0 03
Saugatuck River entrance	–0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	–0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	–0 14
Montauk Inlet	–0 25
Montauk Point, north side	–1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	–0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	–0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	–0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	–0 10
Execution Light	–0 06
Manhasset Bay	–0 01
Hempstead Harbor	–0 11
City Island	–0 03
Rye Beach	–0 28
Port Chester	–0 09
Mamaroneck	–0 08
New Rochelle	–0 24
Davids Island	–0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	–0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	–0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	–1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	–0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	–0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	–0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	–0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 5/3	5:54	8:01
FRI. 5/4	5:53	8:02
SAT. 5/5	5:51	8:03
SUN. 5/6	5:50	8:05
MON. 5/7	5:49	8:06
TUE. 5/8	5:48	8:07
WED. 5/9	5:46	8:08

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 5/3	7:22AM	10:47PM
FRI. 5/4	8:05AM	11:51PM
SAT. 5/5	8:57AM	—
SUN. 5/6	9:57AM	12:49AM
MON. 5/7	11:06AM	1:39AM
TUE. 5/8	12:18PM	2:22AM
WED. 5/9	1:33PM	2:58AM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
5/1	5/8	5/15	5/22

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	7:15	1:05	7:45	1:30
Fri.	8:15	2:05	8:45	2:30
Sat.	9:15	3:00	9:40	3:25
Sun.	10:10	4:05	10:50	4:35
Mon.	11:15	5:10	11:45	5:30
Tues.	—	6:05	12:20	6:35
Wed.	12:50	7:00	1:10	7:25
Thurs.	1:40	7:50	2:00	8:15

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Drew Muller, Rich Hummell and Tom FitzSimmons look over a catch of 30 flounder to 2 lbs. 9 oz. taken on April 18, 1984. Photo courtesy of Capt. Marty's Fishing Station.

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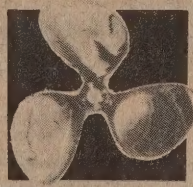

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seems to be out east. The Peconic River mouth has a lot of fish but many of the flatties there are throwbacks.

Ace Cottral at the **Port of Egypt** said that some large flounder to 3¼ lbs. were mixed with the fish off South Ferry and Mashomack with the windmills of East Marion also producing. Conklin's and Dering Harbor had smaller flounder right now, but the body of fish extends all the way back to the Brickyard.

Art White called to say that those who persevered in the zone off Petty's and Orient had some good catches over the weekend. The Pete Kish party wound up with some 30 per person on skimmer-sandworm combinations, for example. Waters warmed from 42 degrees F. on Friday and fishing seemed to get somewhat better as the boats worked back further west. J. Porter and wife Marge came up from Galveston to fish with George Porter on the **Brand X** and had 17 and 26 flounder respectively. The big boat had 300 fish on Sunday and pools have been in the 2½ to 3¼ lb. range. Porter informs us he's working 20 to 50 feet of water from Orient back to Horton's. The **Nancy Ann** has scored regularly with 100 fish catches back as far as the Soundview Motel.

Dave Brennan called to say that Bruce Williamson, past president of the Bergen County Anglers had 46 fish for the high hook mark on Friday aboard the **Peconic Star.** Sunday's fishing was a fair pick by comparison while Saturday afforded one very good shot in the morning. Dave even gave Gardiner's a try and feels that it's not ready yet. Clark Bellows told us that he'll be skippering on the **Prime Time II** for Larry Ciccotto on Mondays through Fridays. Bellows noted that the pick on Saturday in the Pettys and Orient area was slow, but that warming waters seemed to improve things on Sunday.

One ominous note is the persistence of net scars on a good percent of fish taken from the eastern tip of the Sound. Draggers have been noted off Bostwick for 5 weeks.

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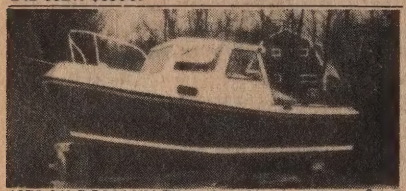
30' OLSEN SF built 1975 wood; T-215 hp FWC FB Bimini; 180 gal. Monel tanks. Excl. cond. Outriggers, spreaders. Make offer. For details Eves: 201-985-2458. Days: 212-930-2388 or Olsens Yard.

73 30' TROJAN F/B Sportfish Fiberglass, twin 215 hp Mercruisers. Dual steering, tabs, CB, Horizon VHF, Lowrance chart recorder, Si-Tex Loran. New carpet & curtains. Fast & economical. $19,000. 212-253-9162.

23' THUNDERBIRD cuddy cabin; cathedral hull, 160 Mercruiser I/O rebuilt 83. Depth recorder, compass, CB, outriggers, dual batt. Must sell. 516-242-3821. $3950.



1970 21' ROMANY Fiberglass North Atlantic Pilot Boat. Built in England to Lloyd's standards. Powered by Perkins 47 hp FWC diesel engine. In good cond. Trade accepted. $7995. 212-377-7310.

1978 CARVER Camper 22' 198 M/C I/O, stand-up head, 2 sinks, 2 ice boxes, AM/FM casette. Rod holders, fish wells, compass, dual batt., depth finder, VHF, ant., mahogany swim ladder. Self-bailing cockpit, camper canvas & more. $8900. 212-737-3224 or 201-573-9537.

29' TROJAN, twin 6 cylinder Chryslers. Full canvas, gin pole, SW Washdown. Available w/full electronics. In water; excl. cond. $2500. 516-281-0518.

1983 4.5 hp Mercury O/B. Approx. 10 hours use. w/9' Fiberglass Dinghy. $750. 201-876-4506.

SAVE on your next SPORTFISHERMAN. Great selection at south Florida prices. NAUTICAL SERVICE YACHT SALES, 305-848-6292.

STEIGER CRAFT 21' cuddy. Built on L.I. for L.I. waters." 16 Dory's, 18 & 21 center consoles. STRONG'S MARINELAND, Rt. 25, Mattituck. 298-4020.

'77 GRADY WHITE, Dolphin 20' 140 Johnson w/81 block. CB, bilge, wiper, tach, fuel separator. Top & side, 2 anchors, lines, etc. $9500. Call after 4/28/84. 643-8137.

23' SLICKCRAFT/Robalo cuddy cabin, 1975, 260 Merc I/O 1980, outriggers, electronics. $9995. K&K OUTBOARD, 516-431-1865.

33' CONCORDE FB SPORTFISHERMAN "FREE SPIRIT" charter boat. Active business in Montauk. For sale as business or boat only. Latest electronic eqpt. incl. Loran, Radar, depth finder, fish finder, etc. All CG safety equip. Complete fishing gear avail. Excl. boat and/or bus. opportunity. Must sell. 914-967-7250/8422.

OUTBOARD MOTORS REPAIRED
Sterndrive, boat hauling, road service. Free estimates. Will pick up & deliver. Fast, dependable service guaranteed. Certified OMC Master Technician. SANA HARBOR MARINE, Babylon. 595-1189; 378-3540.

MUST SELL: CARVER Santa Cruz 1976 26' Mercruiser I/O. Sleeps 6. Dual sta. Bimini, flybridge encl. Camper top, Si-Tex flasher, wells SW washdown, rod holders. Stove, ice box, head. Much more. $15,500. 212-863-8412, Gerry. After 7PM.

1981 12' SEARS Game Fisher; 1982 5 hp Mariner motor; 1977 Dilly trailer; 10 hrs. Showroom cond. $1200. 516-744-2251.

1982 45 hp Chrysler O/B, elec. start, control arm. Immaculate. Used one season. $1200 Eves: 212-645-3314.

JOHN DORY 16' center console, w/1983 25 hp Evinrude electric, flasher. Bimini top; trailer. $2600. Eves: 516-421-0582.

17' GLASPAR. New paint, new seat. Good shape & trailer; and extras. 516-271-6133.

SISU 22' 1978 Bass Offshore model. 1978 Mercury 115 & 7½. Trailer. Mint. $12,000. 516-485-5256.

1975 CRUISERS INC., 19' Bowrider 115 Johnson O/B. PT&T. Full canvas, SST Prop. Extras. Good cond. 516-378-0299.

1977 22' CRESTLINER I/O 260 hp Mercruiser. Excl. cond. 90 gal. gas tank, Loran, paper recorder, sea temp gauge, VHF, gin pole. Many, many extras. $11,300. 212-343-5226.

1979 F.L. TRIPP 22' Complete Angler, 305 C.I. I/B. Forward & stern controls; DF, VHF, 5 hp O/B. $14,950 negotiable. After 6PM. 765-5675/765-5395.

1982 AQUASPORT 20' Walkaround cuddy cabin; 150 Merc., Loran, VHF, recorder, compass. Bimini; CG equip. $13,000. ERIKSENS, 516-766-3332.

THE ULTIMATE Offshore Pocket Sportfisherman: 1983 25' Hydra-Sport, stand-up cuddy walkaround, Deep V, Kevlar hull, '83 235 hp Evinrude. Boat & motor under warranty. Canyon range w/165 gal. fuel tank. All new electronics incl. Raytheon 750 Loran, Lowrance X-15 recorder, commercial ICOM 80 waterproof VHF, Lowrance digital w/alarm & water temp gauge, 5" stainless binnacle mounted Ritchie compass, custom windlass, recirculating live well, washdown pump. Full canvas, teak pulpit, hydraulic steering, 18" Bennett trim tabs, tackle drawers; 4 X-large fish boxes, Iperb, spotlight, portable fighting chair, portable swim plat., dual batt. system, rod holders & racks. Cost $32,000 in '83. Immediate Sale—best offer over $25,000. 516-483-9649.

33' '77 EGG HARBOR, FB SD. Limited edition. Twin 250 hp Chryslers, 830 total hrs. 6.5KW Onan, A/C; painted '83. Electronics new '83. Interior just redone. Sleeps 6 in 3 separate cabins. The condition is mint. Asking $58,000. NAUTICAL SERVICE YACHT SALES, 305-848-6292. Call for other fine yachts.

1976 TOPAZ 28 SF twin S/W/C 233 Mercruisers. Low hrs. Loran, VHF, paper recorder, SW Washdown & much more. $24,900. After 7:30PM: 212-667-1804.

1966 28' pacemaker. Flybridge Sportfisherman. Dinette, stove, sink, ice box, stand-up head, VHF radio; 350 Daytona I/B. Wired for 110v. Sleeps 4. New transom 1983. In water; excl. cond. $2800. 516-431-7915.

AQUASPORT 17'-28'. MARINELAND—the small boat specialists. Bronx, 212-824-4000. Mattituck, 516-298-4020. Long Beach, 516-889-5000.

FISHING BOAT SPECIALS
25' 82 GRADY WHITE 252 Swordfish, w/twin 26L Sea Drives. Excl. cond. Tower; loaded.
25' 81 Grady White 254 Kingfish w/twin 470 Mercruisers, tower. Loaded
25' 79 Grady White 254 Kingfish, twin 470 Mercs., FWC, tower. Loaded.
24' 83 Grady White 240 Offshore w/235 hp Johnson. Like new.
22' 82 Grady White 225 Tournament, w/OMC 26L Sea Drive.
24' 81 Aquasport 246 Family Fish, OMC 260 I/O, custom canvas & much more.
22' 79 Aquasport 222 Family Fish, Merc. 470, FWC I/O.
19' 6" 81 Aquasport 196 Family Fish, 83 Johnson 115 hp O/B.
HOBBY LAND MARINE, Hampton Bays, NY. 516-728-4313.

25' WELLCRAFT Nova, 1973, twin 1981 188 hp Mercs. Brand new outdrives, P/S, CB, VHF, DF. Teak swim platform, new canvas, head. Outriggers; full instruments. Much more. Large cockpit. Excl. offshore or family fisherman. Nice clean boat; ready to go. Asking $11,500. Days, Mon-Sat: 914-693-6600.

26' PACEMAKER Wahoo 10' beam, 270 Crusader C/C, cuddy, legal head. Full elec. 212-474-6422.

19' WOOD BOAT, 125 hp Merc. O/B. Full canvas, DF, compass. Good cond. In Freeport. Must sell. $2200. Paul, Days: 212-963-9498. Eves: 212-852-4769.

14' GLASSMASTER w/Tee-Nee trailer & 50 hp Johnson motor. Extras incl. Mint cond. $1750. Eves: 516-931-0594.

EVINRUDE ★ WHOLESALE ★ RETAIL ★ EXPORT ★ WHOLESALE ★ RETAIL
AL GROVER'S (516) 378-0510
MAKO
Grover built DIESEL
CUSTOM DIESEL POWER
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AL GROVER'S (516) 378-0510

GRADY WHITE 254 Kingfisher Sportfisherman. Twin 470 Mercruisers. Tuna tower, full canvas, VHF, CB, Loran, depth recorder. Outriggers, fighting chair. Many extras. Excl. cond. Asking $32,500. 516-944-9399.

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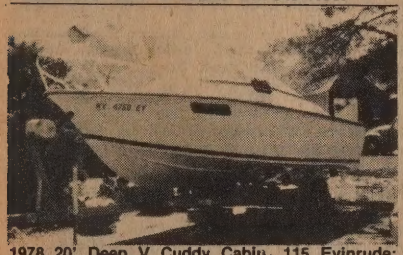
1983 AQUASPORT 286-XF, Twin 255 Commanders, FWC, tuna tower w/controls, Lee outriggers w/spreaders, Pompanette fighting chair. Full canvas, radar, Loran, Chromascope, SSB, chart recorder, VHF/FM, CB, Hailer, ADF, burglar alarm. Good FD windlass. Plus much more; too much to list. Call for details. 212-549-1050.



1978 20' Deep V Cuddy Cabin, 115 Evinrude; PT&T, Shoreline EZ Loader trlr. Plenty storage; 3 fishwells, dual batt, canvas. Roomy cabin. $5900. 516-234-4341.

Mercruiser I/B Eng. 255, 1700 good hours. Oil changed every 100. Running in boat for demo. Excl. Asking $400. 516-431-8021.

WANTED: 17' Boston Whaler "Montauk." Hull must be in very good cond. 516-754-2202.

22' MAKO, paper recorder, Ritchie compass, twin 100 Johnsons. Stainless steel props, dual batt., 25' EZ Loader galv. trailer, Ray Jefferson VHF, cy Burnett 40ch marine CB &many more extras. Excellent cond. Eves: 516-754-9276.

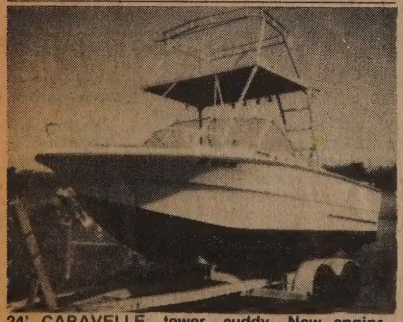
MAKO 1977, 200 hp Johnson. New power head. Loaded w/electronics—fishfinder, etc.—for offshore fishing. 914-762-5094.

WANTED: Used boats & motors. We also broker & survey boats. Call PALMER MARINE, 516-623-2972.

'77 FORMULA Thunderbird 18', '79 140 hp Evinrude. Power T/T, SST Prop. New Teleflex & battery. Cox trailer. $5000. 212-882-5746.

AQUASPORT 20' Walkaround, Johnson 235 SS Prop, trailer. All 1981. Swim platform, radio. All instruments mint. $14,500. Days: 212-843-7777. Eves: 516-825-1204

ALL 1984 EVINRUDES—Sale prices w/extended warranties. MARINELAND, Long Beach, 516-889-5000.



24' CARAVELLE, tower, cuddy. New engine sterndrive. Outriggers, radios, extras. With trailer. $6500. Eves: 516-399-2681.

Evinrude 1979 175 hp. Original owner "low ring" w/harness & controls. Mint cond. Eves: 516-581-5964. $2700.

MUST SELL: Giant heavy duty inflatable 4-man boats. New. Oar locks, grommeted safety line, 4 air chambers, tow handle-$72. For free information, call collect, person-to-person, Mr. North, 7 days till midnight for the next 30 days: 213-856-9619.

DONATE YOUR BOAT
The Boy Scouts (Sea Scouts) need boats. Donate your boat to this worthy cause & receive FULL Tax credit. Survey & appraisals arranged. 212-377-0216.

MERCRUISERS—427 cu. in., 325 hp, FWC, 1500 hours. Recent valve job; compl. w/transmissions, 1.5:1 reduction gear. Pair $2500. Eves: 212-222-4658.

SPORTCRAFT—15' thru 30' in stock at fantastic savings. Immediate delivery. HOBBY LAND MARINE, Hampton Bays, NY. 516-728-4313.

18' DIXIE Fiberglass boat w/65 hp Mercury rebuilt motor. All new parts. Best Offer. Tom, 212-507-9503.

1980 AQUASPORT 19' 6", 1981 115 hp Mercury O/B. Low hrs; electronics, Ritchie compass, custom canvas, dual batt, Penn downriggers, 2 winter covers & framing. Bought new; professionally maintained. Immaculate. Days: 212-808-8820. Eves: 914-337-8304.

33' BOOTHBAY, twin 225 Mercruisers, Ross recorder, VHF, CB, Constavolt. Outriggers, downriggers, dual stations. Priced to sell. Days: 516-283-8869. Eves: 516-288-3453.

SEA OX 170, cent. console, new, 70 hp 1984 Johnson, Bimini top, Binnacle controls. $6995. GLEN COVE MARINA, INC., 516-676-1377.

CHRYSLER OUTBOARD MOTOR CLOSE OUT. Entire dealer stock of 1984 Chrysler O/B Motors w/2-year warranty to be sold at Below dealer cost. Prices too low to print. AERO MARINE, 516-431-5061.

SHAMROCK KEEL DRIVE: 20' & new 26' hardtop, gas or diesel; 3 models. Also Mako & Cruiser, Inc. Demo Avail. SOUTH SHORE BOATS, 516-288-2400/728-0922.

17' SEA OX 1981, 1981 Shoreline Trailer. Many custom features. Like new; hardly used. $4395. 516-623-1639.

1982 MARK TWAIN, 21' Sportfisherman Model, 185 hp I/O. Full canvas. Loaded w/extras. Mint cond.; very low hrs. Ready for the water. $12,500. 516-928-7899.

1980 EVINRUDE, 4.5, lo freshwater hrs. Original owner. Excl. cond. $400. 516-868-1769.

45 CHARTER/Party Boat. Certified 1-40 + 2 passengers. 671 Diesel, Si-Tex recorder, radar, VHF, CB, flush deck, night lights. New CG hull inspection 10-83. Boat working now. Must sell. $19,500 or Best Offer. 516-422-2326.

JOHNSON Powered Aluminum boats. Duranautic or Lund; 16' w/1980 Johnson 15 hp O/B. 12 months limited warranty on motors W/new Calkins trailer-$2000. Complete. PORT OF EGYPT MARINE, Southold. 516-765-2445.

WANTED: Evinrude Johnson Mercury OBs. Any condition. Will pick up. Used parts avail. 516-981-6487.

1981 RENKEN 18' B.R. Volvo Penta 125 hp, FWC, 270 outdrive. Full canvas; VHF. Highlander trailer, p/w. Many extras. Asking $5000. 516-488-1931.

1977 21' MACKIE Cabin. Sleeps 2; 198 hp Mercruiser I/O, power trim, VHF radio, CB, depth recorder; 51 gal. tank. CG pkg. Full canvas, dual batt, 79 EZ Loader trlr. Power winch & more. $7500. 212-639-6135.

17' BOSTON WHALER side console, 1982 50 hp Mercury, 15 hrs. EZ Load trlr, spray hood, custom fish box. Compass; new steering; new battery. $3900. Eves: 516-349-9359.

GARVEY'S 15' x 5' from $250. Stratford Dory & other F.G. boats. 7-5, 516-785-2960.

USED MOTORS: 3.6 to 115 hp. 7-5, 516-785-2960.

EVINRUDE CLEARANCE SALE
NEW: 2, 1983 150 hp, 25"-$4500; 1, 1983, 140 hp, 20"-$3900; 1, 1982 35 hp 20"-$1350. Used: 1981 35E, 20"-$950. 1, 1981 115 hp 20"-$2600. SHELTER COVE MARINA, 212-822-3054.

EVINRUDE 25. Serviced; new parts 14' aluminum boat, trailer; extras. $350. 516-352-3297.

1981 235 hp Evinrude. Excellent running; low hours. 598-0044.

1975 SILVERTON 27' 225 hp Chrysler FWC, 300 hrs. VHF, DF, compass. Bimini top, 110 dockside. Many extras. Excl. cond. $11,900. 516-872-3195.

1968 BERTRAM Flybridge Sportfish. Radar fish equip.
1968 Bertram Bahia Mar, tower, twin 225. Ready to go.
1968 37' Viking, wood. Fishes well.
1955 34' Wood motor sailer.
1979 21' Cruiser, I/O.
1964 25' Trojan
1980 246 ccc Aquasport.
1979 21' MFG, I/O.
1974 36' Chris Craft Sportfish, 555 Cummins.
1970 38' Bertram Tower, Rybo chair, 2-853 GMs majored.
1981 32' Blackfin, turbo cats. Loaded.
1974 28' Luhrs Sedan, 225 Chrysler.
25' Bertram Hardtop twin I/O.
1974 Sea Ray Weekender I/O.
34' Owens Hull lobster-type, 671n, radar & Loran.
1973 30' Egg Harbor. Everything's on it; ready.
26' Bluefin, 1974. Tower; new engines.
1978 25 Black fin combi - teak, new 1982 engine.
We need listings.
Call SEA JAC BROKERS, Jacksons Marina, 728-4220. Tom or Chris.

4 hp 1983 Chrysler O/B. Superb cond. Good car trunk motor. Asking $425; cost-$575. 212-465-4062

20' SEA CRAFT cuddy, 175 Evinrude. Full canvas; Shoreline Trlr. More. Mint. $10,500. Days: 516-798-1016.

SUZUKI Outboards & Ampac Inflatables. Great combination. Avail. at DON'S MARINA. Call for Appt. 516-399-3330.

CHRIS CRAFT Lancer 23' cuddy w/307 Volvo outdrive. Yard maintained. Outdrive rebuilt '82. Runs great. Fast. With/without electronics. $6725. Days[516-433-4549. Nite: 516-754-9068.

1958 26' ULRICHSEN wood, shelter cabin, 1973 Pleasurecraft 215 hp FWC. Asking $1650. Eves: 914-793-5842.

Continued On Next Page

GRADY WHITE 25' Sailfish, launched 1983. Hardtop/radiobox, Loran C, VHF, depth/fish-finder, stereo, full HT canvas; 12 rod holders, gin pole, SW washdown pump. Twin 150 Johnson O/B, SSPS, dual batt. Sleeps 3; Porta-Potti, stove. Custom curtains, outriggers, compass. Complete offshore fishing machine. Like new; many extras. $36,500. 516-842-5107.

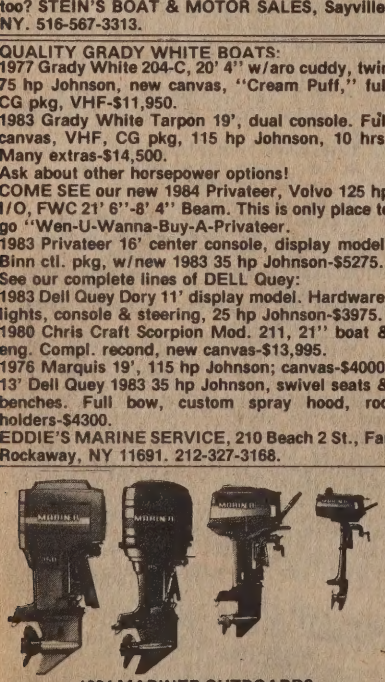
44' CHARTER/PARTY Boat. Certified 36+2 passengers, 671 diesel; 2 recorders, VHF, RDF. Flush deck. Hull inspected 11/83. $14,000. Wknds: 516-599-1232. Mid-wk days: 215-688-3293.

FOR SALE
MUST SELL—PARTNERSHIP DISSOLVED. Bertram 31', FWC, 330 hp Chryslers. New teak decks, extra fuel tanks, full electronics. Rockaway chair, full Bimini encl. Windlass, new steering, washdowns, dockside, gin pole. Many extras. Canyon boat. Mint. $24,900. 212-224-8180.

TWO FISHING MACHINES
1977 Striker FBSF. A rare find. T471 TI's, tuna tower. Full electronics, full fishing gear. This boat is seriously for sale. Try $90,000.
1980 Bertram 31 FBSF Twin 504. Low hrs. Full electronics. Ready to fish. Immaculate. Offers. Call us if your boat is seriously for sale. MC-MICHAEL YACHT BROKERAGE, 516-725-4222.

SEA OX 17'-23, CC & Walkarounds. Phoenix 27'-38'. Stamas 24'-32' cabins & walkarounds. Glassport 17'-20' Runabouts. Johnson motors, 2-235 hp. Most models in stock. You'll love our prices. Used by USCG—shouldn't you own one too? STEIN'S BOAT & MOTOR SALES, Sayville, NY. 516-567-3313.

QUALITY GRADY WHITE BOATS:
1977 Grady White 204-C, 20' 4" w/aro cuddy, twin 75 hp Johnson, new canvas, "Cream Puff," full CG pkg, VHF-$11,950.
1983 Grady White Tarpon 19', dual console. Full canvas, VHF, CG pkg, 115 hp Johnson, 10 hrs. Many extras-$14,500.
Ask about other horsepower options!
COME SEE our new 1984 Privateer, Volvo 125 hp I/O, FWC 21' 6"-8' 4" Beam. This is only place to go "Wen-U-Wanna-Buy-A-Privateer.
1983 Privateer 16' center console, display model. Binn ctl. pkg, w/new 1983 35 hp Johnson-$5275.
See our complete lines of DELL Quey:
1983 Dell Quey Dory 11' display model. Hardware, lights, console & steering, 25 hp Johnson-$3975.
1980 Chris Craft Scorpion Mod. 211, 21" boat & eng. Compl. recond, new canvas-$13,995.
1976 Marquis 19', 115 hp Johnson; canvas-$4000.
13' Dell Quey 1983 35 hp Johnson, swivel seats & benches. Full bow, custom spray hood, rod holders-$4300.
EDDIE'S MARINE SERVICE, 210 Beach 2 St., Far Rockaway, NY 11691. 212-327-3168.



1984 MARINER OUTBOARDS
2-$340; 4-$540; 5-$660; 8-$840; 9.9-$1090; 15-$1190; 25-$1410; 30-$1455; 40-$1600; 50-$2160; 60-$2515; 75-$2885; 90-$3140; 115PT-$3910; 150PT-$4555; 200PT-$5050. Prices incl. delivery to you. Only NJ residents add 6% sales tax. SPORTS MARINE, 201-736-3909.

1971 Evinrude-$125. Lower unit, 2 carbs, 2 props. Start pls. Flywheel. Excl. Needs powerhead. After 6PM: 212-849-1048.

1974 23' SEA BIRD center console, '81, 235 Evinrude. Lo hrs. Dual batt. switch, live bait well, 75 gal. built-in fuel tank, VHF radio & depth recorder. $8000. 1976 200 hp Johnson; lo hrs. Excl. cond. $2000. 516-598-0044.

1974 CHRIS CRAFT 25' Tournament Fisherman. All fiberglass, 10' beam. Tower, twin I/B, SW Washdown, radios, flasher, recorder, F/W sink w/bait ststion, T/T. Auto. anchor, synchronizers, R.D.F. $13,000. After 6PM: 516-541-7805. Dave.

DISTRESS SALE
1981 Aquasport 24-6 CCP, 1983 225 hp Merc. Low hrs. Excl. cond. Loaded. Call for details. $17,200 or B.O. M-F: 212-409-1881.

TOPAZ 1978 28', Twin 228, radar, Loran, recorder, VHF. Full encl. Arch. Mint. $32,000. 914-668-2843.

EVINRUDE

NEW 1983 EVINRUDES 1983
2-$305; 4-$495; 7.5-$740; 9.9-$960; 15-$1060; 25-$1260; 35-$1410; 50-$2100; 60-$2250; 70-$2500; 90-$2800; 115-$3100; 140-$3800; 150-$4300; 175-$4750; 235-$4900. ELECTRA MARINE, INC., 610 Merrick Rd., Lynbrook, NY 11563. Scott & McCulloch parts. FOB/H. WI. 516-599-3003. We ship anywhere.

SUZUKI OUTBOARDS
More run for your money.

SUZUKI Outboards—MC KEE CRAFT Boats—Inflatables: Sea Eagle, Nova & Ampac. Combos avail. Summer dockage avail. Marine supplies. KREMER'S BOATYARD, Seaford. 516-221-8877.

DUSKY 26x12 1979. Full tower, dual controls. Twin 270 Crusaders; 240 gal. tanks. Cuddy cabin; sleeps 2. Full electronics, all 1982. Offshore; ready in water. $28,000. Sal, 516-842-2345.

1978 22' 2" AQUASPORT CCP Deep V Hull, salt shaker T-top w/pulpit 1981, leftover. New in '82. 225 Merc. O/B. Low hours. Raytheon recorder, VHF, Loran C. Outriggers; live bait well. Complete; mint cond. $12,000. Negotiable. Days: 203-248-2141. Nights: 203-248-1232. Bill.

CAPT. RON GRANDINETTI'S Charter Boat Julie III for sale. 30' fiberglass boat, 160 hp Perkins diesel engine, incl. front & stern controls; 16' of fishing room, Loran C, VHF & CB radio; 2 depth recorders. Many extras. Excl. cond. Will Demo. $28,000. 516- FL 2-2929.

CHRYSLER I/B engine #426, 290 hp. FWC w/trans & 2:1 red. gears. 1100 hours. Good cond. $600. 516-473-5043.

AQUASPORT 19' 1" Center Console, 115 hp Evinrude, Morse controls. New Teleflex steering. Bimini top; built-in tanks, fish well, Tee-Nee Trailer. More. $4900. Eves: 516-581-5964.

1980 22.2 AQUASPORT F.F. 170 hp, 4 cylinder gas miser Mercruise. Full canvas & cushions. Dual batt., DF radio, VHF. Life jackets, fish boxes, SS Prop, Porta-Potti. Winter cover. Low hrs. 1982 tandem trailer, power winch, buddy bearings. Eves: 798-8364.

516 - 581-3308
KARP MARINE AGENCY
SEABOATS
209 EAST BAYBERRY ROAD
ISLIP, N. Y. 11751

1968 41' Hatteras, GM 8/53s, low hrs. Tower, electronics, awlgrip, mint.
1966 41' Hatteras, GM 8/53s. Loaded.
1968 30' Chris Craft Skiff, GM 4/71, 500 hrs. Mint, fast.
1982 26' Fortier, 140 hp diesel, custom
1966 26' Stamas. New Volvo diesel
1965 36' Steel Lobster/Work, GM 6/71, elect. & pots.
$976 30' Scopinich Glass Fisherman, 1982 200 Perkins, electronics. Quality Sportfish Listings Needed.

BOATING EQUIP.

BOAT TRAILERS FOR RENT: Single & Tandem Axle. Daily, weekly, monthly rates. Temporary & permanent hitches for Sale or Rent. BARN TRAILER SERVICE, 57-06 B'Way, Woodside, NY. 212-426-7039.

Electronics Pkg.—standard VHF, Cobra CB, Mecca 6" white line chart recorder. Complete pkg. only. Make offer. 516-567-9249.

LORAN C, Simrad Internav-123 w/cables, coupler, antenna, instruction book. Mint cond.-$600. Depth recorder—Si-Tex HE-31 w/flasher, cables, transducer, instruction book; 5 rolls refills. Mint cond.-$375. 516-354-1423. Eves: 516-775-5669.

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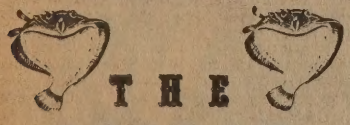

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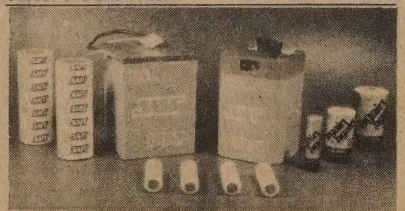

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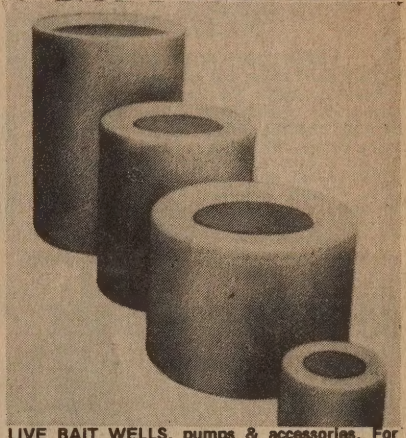

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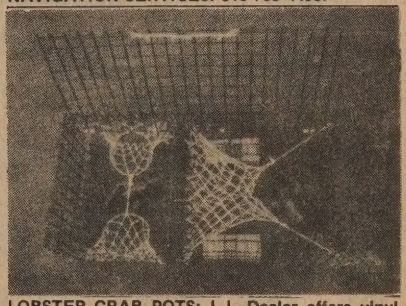

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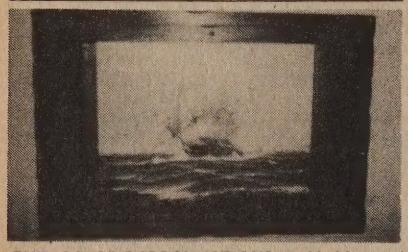

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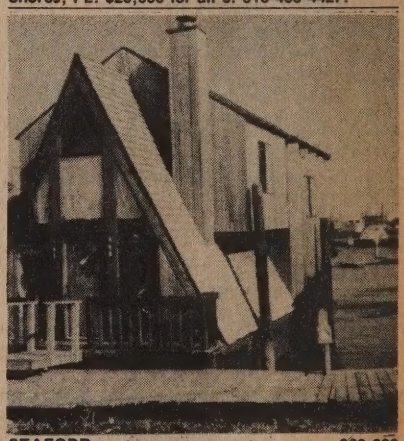

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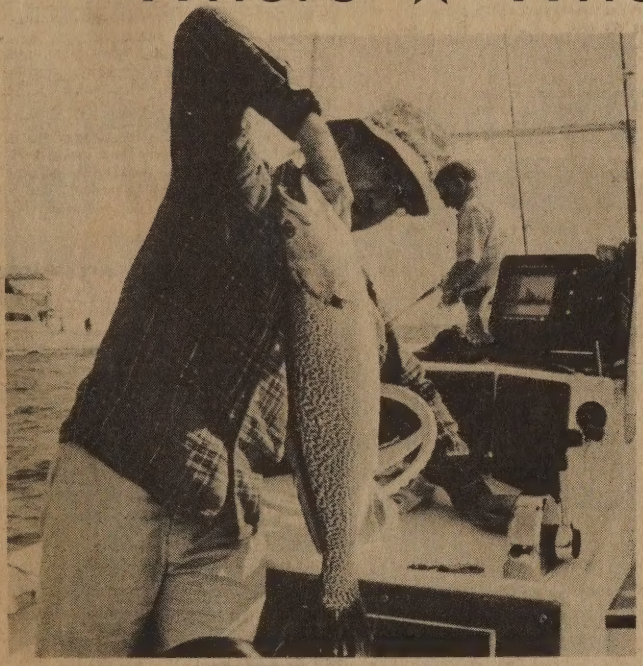

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